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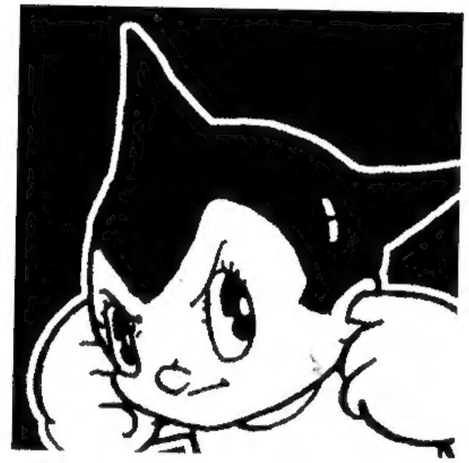
Osamu Tezuka's Original

ASTRO BOY®



ASTRO BOY®

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RED CAT

First serialized from May to November 1953
in *Shonen* magazine.

LOOK! IT'S TOKYO IN 2013!

♪HMPH!♪ I'M SICK OF HEARING ABOUT 2013!

?

WHO WOULDN'T BE?

WE'RE IN THE *FUTURE*, RIGHT? AND THIS IS S'POSED TO BE A FUTURISTIC CITY, RIGHT?

SO HOW COME I'M STILL WEARING TRADITIONAL JAPANESE WOODEN *CLOGS*?!

NOT TO MENTION THIS THREADBARE OLD SUIT!!

CAN'T YOU MAKE ME LOOK MORE *DASHING*?!

AND LOOK AT MY STUDENTS? THEY'RE ALL WEARING OLD-FASHIONED SCHOOL UNIFORMS!

LOOK AT SHIBUGAKI!! HE'S GOT A CRUDE OLD BUZZCUT...

SO HOW COME YOU DRAW ALL THESE *CONTRA-DICTIONS*?! *HUH? WHY?!*

♪*EHEM*♪... I'M FULLY AWARE OF THIS ISSUE, *MUSTA-CHIO*...

BUT IF I WERE TO DRAW A *REALLY* FUTURISTIC CITY...

...IT'D LOOK TOO STRANGE TO MODERN READERS...

THEY WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY WITH IT AT ALL!

SO TO MAKE PEOPLE FEEL MORE COMFORTABLE...

...I OCCASIONALLY INCLUDE THINGS FROM THE ERA THEY KNOW. IT'S ALWAYS A PROBLEM WHEN DRAWING SCI-FI MANGA!

WELL, I DON'T GIVE A HOOT ABOUT THAT, BUT COULDN'T YOU AT LEAST MAKE MY *HOME* LOOK A LITTLE BETTER?

MOST FOREIGNERS'D BE EMBARASSED BY THE TOKYO OF THE YEAR 2000...

IT'S A WEIRD CITY, WHERE 21ST CENTURY CIVILIZATION MIXES WITH THE QUAINTNESS OF THE 20TH...

BUT WHEN WALKING THROUGH THE MUSASHINO AREA, YOU SHOULDN'T CHOOSE A DIRECTION TO TAKE...

THAT'S WHAT DOPPO KUNIKIDA WROTE IN HIS FAMOUS 1901 NOVEL, *MUSASHINO*.

HE SAID YOU SHOULD JUST WALK WITH NO PARTICULAR DESTINATION IN MIND....

THEN THE PATH ITSELF WILL LEAD YOU TO SOMETHING UNEX-PECTED...

NEW OKYO

IF YOU ASK DIRECTIONS OF ANYONE ALONG THE WAY...

...THEY'LL PROBABLY TELL YOU IN LOUD VOICE, BUT YOU MUSTN'T BECOME ANGRY...

HONK

THE PATH GOES DOWN INTO A VALLEY...

BECAUSE WHERE-EVER YOU GO IN MUSAS-HINO...

...THERE ARE HILLS, VALLEYS, AND FOR-ESTS...

WHEN YOU HEAR A BIRD SING OVERHEAD, YOU'LL BE HAPPY...

BAM BAM BAM BAM

SLAM SLAM

THUD THUD

CONSTRU ITE

AH, HOW THE WORLD HAS CHANGED...

WHEN I WAS A CHILD, THERE WERE STILL GREEN GLENS IN THE MIDDLE OF TOKYO....

I KNOW THERE ARE A FEW LEFT IN THE YAMANOTE AREA, BUT THEY'LL PROBABLY BE PAVED OVER SOON...

THAT'S WHY I LIKE WALKING THERE...

UM, COULD YOU GUYS TELL ME WHERE HOUSE NO. 13 IS, ON BLOCK NO. 13?

GO RIGHT, THEN GO 300 YARDS, 'N YOU'LL FIND IT...

THAT'S THE *FOURTH PERSON* TO ASK THAT THIS MORNING!

...AND THEY ALL ASK FOR THE *SAME ADDRESS!*

WHAP

UM, COULD YOU TELL ME WHERE NO. 13--

GO RIGHT IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR IT!!

ER... 'SCUSE ME...

NO. 13'S TO THE *RIGHT!!!*

YOU'VE BEEN PLAYING TOO MUCH WITH THOSE MENKO CARDS, TAMAO!

YIKES! TEACHER P!!

YOU THINK THERE'S A PLACE SELLING CARDS LIKE THAT AT NO. 13?

OVER 15 PEOPLE'VE COME BY HERE ASKING ABOUT NO. 13, TEACHER!

HA HA! MAYBE IT'S A NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING!

NO, TEACHER... NO. 13'S JUST AN OLD ABANDONED HOUSE!

ABANDONED HOUSE?!

YEAH... SOME KIDS SAY IT'S HAUNTED...

YOU GONNA GO IN?

DON'T BLOCK MY REAR... I MIGHT HAVE TO RUN IN A HURRY, 'N YOU'D BE IN THE WAY!

WHO'S THERE?!

WHA?!

ONE... TWO... THREE... FIVE KIDS!!

YIKES! IT'S AN ADULT!

HE MUST BE THE ONE!

ARE YOU THE ONE WHO INVITED US HERE, MISTER?

NOPE. I DIDN'T INVITE ANYONE...

BUT LOOK AT THESE CARDS WE ALL GOT...

COME TO HOUSE NO. 13, BLOCK 13, WARD 13, IN TOKYO, BY 13:00 HOURS, ON THE 13TH.

YOU KIDS ALL STUDENTS FROM THE SAME SCHOOL?

NOPE...

I CAME FROM SHIZUOKA, IN THE SOUTH...

SOMEBODY MUST'VE BEEN PLAYING A TRICK ON US!

THERE MUST BE A REASON SOMEONE'D SUMMON FIVE UNRELATED PEOPLE HERE!

REALLY? MY DAD, TOO!

MINE, TOO!

THIS MAKES NO SENSE!

MY DAD'S COMPANY'S GONNA OPEN A BRANCH IN TOKYO SOON...

HEY, MINE, TOO...

WOW, SAME AS MY PAPA...

AN' MY DAD'S COMPANY'S TALKING 'BOUT OPENING UP A BRANCH IN THE SASAGAYA BUSINESS CENTER...

WAIT A MINUTE... SASAGAYA... THAT'S AN AREA THAT'S JUST BEING DEVELOPED NOW...

THIS IS WEIRD...

A REAL MYSTERY!

COME TO THINK OF IT, THE RETURN ADDRESS WAS STRANGE...

"Y'KNOW... ONCE BEFORE, WHEN I WAS CLIMBING MT. SHAUGI, I CAME ACROSS A WEIRD RED CAT IN FRONT OF A CAVE ENTRANCE..."

'N YOU KNOW WHAT? THE PERSON WHO SENT MY CARD SIGNED HIS NAME "RED CAT."

HEY, MINE TOO!

ME, TOO!

SO A RED CAT'S PLAYING TRICKS ON YOU KIDS, EH?!

CREEAK

WHO GOES THERE?! WHO'S BEEN WATCHING US?!

LISTEN, SOMEONE WAS THERE EAVES-DROPPING ON US!

FIRST OF ALL, WE'VE GOT TO FIGURE OUT WHO THIS RED CAT REALLY IS...

GOSH, PROFESSOR... I FEEL LIKE I'M A DETECTIVE IN A MYSTERY STORY!

LOOK! THERE'S THE CAVE!

MEEYOWLL!

OKAY, I'M GONNA SOLVE THIS...

FGYRRR!

MEEOOWWWWW!

HALP!

SAVED BY A HAIR... THAT WAS CLOSE!!

'WONDER IF I HIT THE SOUND BARRIER?

TEACHER! IT'S *ME! ASTRO!*

YOU'RE INTERFERING AGAIN, ASTRO! I WANTED TO MEASURE MY FALLING SPEED!

GOSH, SORRY, TEACHER. I DIDN'T REALIZE...

BLASTED CAT NEARLY KILLED ME!

YOU REST, TEACHER, WHILE I TRY...

SCRATCH ME ALL YOU WANT, FUR-BALL!

SWOOSH

ME

OW

OWWW

OWWW-WWW

PROING

I TOOK CARE OF HIM!

I MADE SOME MONEY WHILE YOU WERE GONE, ASTRO! PEOPLE THOUGHT I WAS *BEGGING!*

THIS TIME, NOBODY'D BETTER TRY TO JUMP US.....!

BE CAREFUL... THE OPENING'S AWFULLY *SMALL*...

HEY! WHO'S PULLING ME FROM BEHIND? *WHA?!* MY RUCK-SAK'S STUCK!

YIKES!

ALP!!

TEACHER! THERE'S A BUNCH OF BLEACHED WHITE BONES BACK IN THERE!

RELAX, ASTRO! ROBOT'S AREN'T SUPPOSED TO GET SCARED!

B-BUT I WASN'T *EX-PECTING* THIS...

CHECK 'N SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE, ASTRO!

THERE'S A NAME SEWN ON THE CLOTHES ...

IT SAYS *"RYOTARO FELINI"*...

SO, GENTLEMEN THE SKELETON BELONGED TO RYOTARO FELINI, A FAMOUS ZOOLOGIST!

WEREN'T YOU FRIENDS WITH HIM, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU?

I WAS INDEED... HE WAS MY CLASSMATE AND A TRUE LOVER OF THE NATURAL WORLD. HE ALWAYS LAMENTED THE FACT THAT THE MUSASHINO PLAINS ARE BEING *DEVELOPED*...

HMM... WONDER IF THAT'S A BOX OF CHOCOLATES?

PEOPLE EVEN SAID HE COULD TALK WITH *ANIMALS*...

...MAYBE THERE'S COOKIES IN IT?

HERE'S A PHOTO OF HIM...

AW, SHUCKS!

HOLD ON, THAT'S THE *CAT!*

IT'S *CHIRI*, THE PROFESSOR'S PET! SHE WENT MISSING WITH HIM!

B-BUT THIS IS THE SAME CAT WE SAW BY THE SKELETON!

MAYBE CHIRI WAS GUARDING THE BODY!!

PEOPLE *DO* SAY CATS HAVE SPECIAL POWERS!

HERE... THIS IS THE HOUSE THAT FELINI LIVED IN!

WHA?! BUT THIS IS THE SAME HOUSE THE FIVE *KIDS* WERE SUMMONED TO!

ONE MYSTERY LEADS TO ANOTHER!!!

WHO'S *THERE?!!*

WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?! YOU'RE THE CAT I SAW TODAY!

MEOWW! THAT'S RIGHT, MUSTACHIO! AND YOU SAW MY MASTER'S BODY, DIDN'T YOU?!

MY MASTER DIED ANGRY, KNOWING THAT MUSASHINO IS BEING PAVED OVER!

YOU MUST STOP PEOPLE FROM DEVELOP-ING IT!

I ASK BECAUSE I *KNOW* YOU CAN DO THIS. IF YOU DENY MY REQUEST, I SHALL PLACE A MORTAL CURSE ON *ALL* HUMANS, INCLUDING YOU...

BLAM

TAKE *THIS*, YOU BEWITCHED CAT!

MEEOW

RATS! MUST BE LOSING MY TOUCH!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

WHAT WAS THAT? A BURGLAR?

NO... A PUSSYCAT...

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING, MUSTA-CHIO... FIRING A *GUN*, IN *BROAD DAYLIGHT*, AT A *CAT?!*

S-SORRY... GUESS I DID GET CARRIED AWAY...

CATS CAN'T TALK... SO SOME HUMAN MUST BE BEHIND THIS...

MAYBE SOME-ONE WAS USING VENTRIL-OQUISM ...

THE CENTER DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION, IN A CORNER OF THE CONSTRUCTION MINISTRY, AT HIBIYA, TOKYO...

MUSASHINO DEVELOPMENT AND CONSTRUCTION...

MIGHT NOT WORK, BUT I'VE GOTTA TRY'N TALK WITH SOMEBODY IN THE CORPORATION...

MUSASHINO...

HERE GOES NOTHING!!

ER, EXCUSE ME, SIR... WHERE ARE YOU GOING?

YOU HAVE TO CHECK IN AT THE FRONT DESK, FIRST ...

OOPS! HEH HEH... WELL, I'M NOT EXACTLY *SURE* WHAT SECTION I NEED TO VISIT...

CON-STRUC-TION...

U..UM.. ER... THE *CON-STRUC-TION* DEPART-MENT...

I'LL TAKE YOU THERE...

THIS CAT SURE IS *STUBBORN*...

WELL, REGARDING THE PROJECT TO DIG AN UNDERGROUND TUNNEL TO OSHIMA ISLAND... EVEN WITH A BUDGET OF 2 BILLION... *WHAT?* YOU WANT TO FILL IN TOKYO BAY, TOO? *NOW* YOU'RE TALKING!

THERE'S SOMEONE HERE TO SEE YOU ABOUT PROFESSOR FELINI, MR. CONDO...

WE'RE IN A MEETING NOW... HAVE HIM WAIT FOR 117 HOURS AND 3 MINUTES...

HANG ON... DID YOU SAY *PROFESSOR FELINI?!*

SHOW HIM IN...

FIRST OFF, MISTER, I'VE NEVER MET PROFESSOR FELINI, AND I KNOW I'VE NEVER HAD ANY DEALINGS WITH YOU BEFORE!

AH, I KNOW... BUT YOU MUST BE *MR. MUSTA-CHIO!* I KNOW YOU FROM THE FAMOUS FRANKEN INCIDENT!

YOU SAY PROFESSOR FELINI'S *DEAD?*

THAT'S RIGHT. AND I'VE BEEN *CURSED* EVER SINCE!!

SO IT FINALLY HAPPENED...

ACTUALLY, HE USED TO COME SEE ME ON A REGULAR BASIS... HE SAID IF I EVER TRIED TO DEVELOP THE SASAGAYA AREA, HE'D PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE TO STOP ME!

LOOK AT THAT! ISN'T NATURE *BEAUTIFUL* AND *QUIET?* THIS PLACE IS UNTOUCHED, JUST LIKE IT WAS IN ANCIENT TIMES...

...AND YOU PEOPLE WANT TO *DESTROY* IT!? YOU WANT TO ERASE ONE OF THE LAST UNTOUCHED PLACES IN NOISY, DIRTY TOKYO?! ONE OF THE LAST VESTIGES OF THE PAST!?

LOOK HOW GRAND *ICHIRO* HERE HAS GROWN... AND NOW I'M WORRIED HE'LL BE CUT DOWN...

CHRP CHIRP

AH, AND HOW ARE YOU, *RISUKO*, MY LOVELY SQUIRREL FRIEND? AND YOU, *STRIPEY?!*

DO YOU ALWAYS GIVE NAMES TO THE PLANTS AND ANIMALS, PROFESSOR?

SURE! THEY'RE LIKE BELOVED GRAND-CHILDREN...

ALL RIGHT... I UNDERSTAND NOW, PROFESSOR... WE'LL STOP THE PROJECT...

REALLY?! YOU WILL?

BUT WORK HAD ALREADY BEGUN...

GPAAAAR

HEAVY EQUIPMENT WAS BROUGHT INTO SASAGAYA...

THE GROUND WAS DUG UP AND STAMPED DOWN...

BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM

...AND THE ANIMALS AND BIRDS WERE DRIVEN AWAY...

BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM

ICHIRO! WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?!!

WHO *DID* THIS?!

OH, MY GOD...

YOU *LIAR*, CONDO!! I *KNOW* YOU'RE RESPONSIBLE! YOU'VE GOT TO STOP THE PROJECT, OR... OR I'LL...

IT CAN'T BE HELPED, PROFESSOR... IT WAS A MAJORITY DECISION BY THE COMMITTEE...

WHAT?! YOU DESTROYER!! CURSE YOU!!

I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS!! AND EVEN AFTER I'M DEAD, *MOTHER NATURE WILL* NEVER FORGET THIS!!

...SO AFTER THAT, MR. MUSTACHIO, THE PROFESSOR COMPLETELY DISAPPEARED... OF COURSE, I DO HOPE HE'S ALL RIGHT... I'D FEEL VERY SORRY IF HE WERE DEAD...

WELL, THE PROFESSOR'S PET CAT HAS BEEN POSSESSED, AND NOW IT'S RUNNING AROUND YELLING *MEEYOOWGO*...

YOU MEAN, YOU THINK HE'S TRYING TO GET REVENGE FOR HIS MASTER'S DEATH?

MAYBE HE TAKES AFTER THE POSSESSED CAT IN THE FAMOUS PLAY ABOUT PRINCE NABESHIMA...

NO 2 ANOMEN ENTARY CHOOL

HMPH... LOOKS LIKE CONSTRUCTION'S REALLY UNDERWAY NOW IN SASAGAYA...

MUSTACHIO! MAKE SURE YOU TELL YOUR PUPILS NOT TO GO NEAR THE CONSTRUCTION SITE, OKAY?

YAZ-ZIR...

BOYS AND GIRLS.... I KNOW YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE *SASAGAYA* AREA... WELL, DANGEROUS CONSTRUCTION'S GOING ON THERE, SO LIKE THE SAYING GOES, DON'T BE THE FOOLS WHO RUSH IN, WHERE WISE MEN FEAR TO TREAD...

B-BUT TEACHER... THAT'S WHERE WE ALWAYS *PLAY!* THERE'S NOWHERE *ELSE* FOR US TO GO!

YEAH! TELL IT LIKE IT IS, SHIB!

I'M AGAINST THEM MAKING ANY BUILDINGS THERE!

YEAH-- ME, TOO! ME, TOO!

WE OUGHTA HAVE MORE RIGHTS TO THE PLACE THAN ANYONE ELSE!

ENOUGH, SHIBUGAKI! YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE IN THE WORLD!

I'M *KING OF THE MOUNTAIN!*

NYA NYA! HEY, YOU'RE NOT KING ANYMORE, SHIB!

RATS!

THIS IS NO FUN ANY-MORE...

BUT HANG ON A SEC...

THAT'S WHERE I'VE GOT MY OWN TREASURE BURIED...

I CAN'T LET ANYONE GET IT!

WHAT'S UP, SHIB? YOU'RE CHARGING LIKE A CRAZED BULL...

I'M GOING TO THE CON-STRUCTION SITE, AND IF ANYONE GETS IN THE WAY, I'LL *BOP* 'EM ONE....

B-BUT TEACHER SAID NOT TO GO THERE, SHIB!!

NOW, WHERE *DID I* BURY MY STUFF, ANYWAY...?

HERE WE GO... A TRIANGULAR STONE...

UH OH... I HEAR SOMETHING...

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

RUSTLE

WOOF

GROWWWLLLL

WHAT THE--?!

HALP! SOMEBODY HELP!

GRRROAR

HANG IN THERE, SHIB! I'M HERE TO HELP YOU!

?

RUN FOR IT, SHIB! NOW'S YOUR CHANCE!

SHIB, WHAT'RE YOU WAITING FOR?!

HOWWL!

YOU UNCONSCIOUS, SHIB?

OWWWW

THUD

TWEEET

?

TWEEET

A HUMAN'S USING A *WHISTLE* TO CALL THESE WILD DOGS!

WONDER WHO IT IS?!

YOU ALL RIGHT, KID?
ME? I... I'M FINE... I'M A *ROBOT*...
BUT I'M NOT SURE ABOUT SHIB...
DON'T WORRY... HE'S JUST PLAYING POSSUM...
HEEE HEEE HAAA HA HEE!
TICKLE TICKLE
YOU CAN'T GET ME WITH THAT OLD TRICK! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE, ANYWAY?
NOW HOLD ON! THOSE DOGS MADE A *MISTAKE!* THEY WEREN'T TRYING TO KILL YOU!
WHA?! RED CAT?!!
THE ONE 'N ONLY!
YOUR TEACHER WARNED YOU NOT TO COME HERE TODAY, RIGHT?!
HALP, ASTRO! *HALP!*
I'VE NEVER HEARD A CAT TALK BEFORE!!
LEAVE HERE *NOW,* OR YOU'LL SUFFER A FAR WORSE FATE!
DON'T SCARE US LIKE THIS, MISTER... YOU'RE NOT REALLY A CAT, ARE YOU? THAT'S A MASK, RIGHT? *RIGHT?!*
HE'S *GONE,* SHIB...
HE LOOKS LIKE A CAT, BUT I BET HE'S NOT.... IT'S GOTTA BE SOMEONE WITH A MASK ON...
YEAH! 'N IF I CATCH HIM, I'LL TEAR IT OFF!
YOU GO HOME, SHIB.... I'LL FOLLOW HIM...
NO WAY I'LL LEAVE NOW, ASTRO...

BUT YOU'RE A HUMAN, SHIB. IT'S *DANGEROUS!*
HE'S BEHIND THAT ROCK, ASTRO!
WHY, YOU--
CRACK
OWW!
THAT'S WEIRD... THE CAT-GUY DISAPPEARED! JUST *VANISHED!*
MAYBE THERE'S SOME TRICK BUILT INTO THIS BOULDER!
LET'S LIFT IT UP AND SEE...
ONE, TWO, THREE...
GRR....
... FOUR!
HAALP!
THAT'S ODD... I SWEAR I HEARD SHIB CALLING FOR HELP...
WHAT?! HE'S NOT AROUND!
KA THUD
HIS HAT'S THE ONLY THING HERE! *WHAT'S GOING ON?!*
WHADAYOU MEAN, WHAT'S GOING ON?!

GIMME BACK MY HAT, ASTRO!

GIMME ME BACK MY *HEAD*, SHIB!

NOW I'M *REALLY* MAD, ASTRO

!

!

KATHUD

}OWW!{ }OWW!{ MY HEAD!

LOOK, SHIB! IT'S A *STAIR-WAY!* MUST BE WHERE THE RED CAT HANGS OUT!

THIS SURE IS SUSPICIOUS, ASTRO!

WAIT A SEC... I'LL SET MY HEARING TO 1000 X.....

CAN'T HEAR ANY HUMAN VOICES... BUT SOMETHING'S DEFINITELY GOING *DYAA GYAAA GYAA*. SOUNDS LIKE A *ZOO*...

I WONDER WHAT'S THERE...?

WOW... LOOK AT ALL THE ANIMALS!

CHIRP CHEEP

ROAR

ARF

GROWL

MUST BE A HUNDREDS OF THEM...

BAAAAH BAAAAH

CHEEP CHIRP CHEEP

CHU CHU CHU

WAA WAAAH

BLAAA BLAAA BLA

OINK OINK

YOU THINK IT'S SOME SORT OF CELE-BRATION, IN HONOR OF THE ANIMALS?

I DUNNO...

YIKES! IT'S A *SNAKE!!*

HE'S TIED MY HAND IN A KNOT!

ASTRO! DO SOME-THING!

HAAALP! MAMA!

MOOO! SNORT!

SHPRONK

AIEEE!

TAKE THIS!

STOP! HOLD IT RIGHT THERE...

?

NYAAN PURR MEOW PURR

CHEEP CHEEP

GROWL

IT'S RED CAT!

JUST IN THE NICK OF TIME. ANOTHER SECOND AN' MY ANIMAL PALS WOULD'VE TORN YOU APART...

TORN US APART?

☆ ♫ ◎ XX ✱ §!

HE SAYS "KILL THE HUMANS!"

YOU'RE JOKING!

JOKING?! LISTEN... I KNOW WHAT THESE ANIMALS ARE SAYING!

TOO BAD YOU GUYS CAME WHEN YOU DID, BECAUSE I CAN'T LET YOU GO HOME NOW!

WHAT THE--?!

WOW... THIS IS A HOUSE!

AH, BUT IT'S A HOUSE HAUNTED-- BY A CAT...

YOU BOTH SAW MY SECRET, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO LIVE HERE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIVES... HA HA!

MEEOW-GO!

YIKES! THEY'RE BULLDOGS, ASTRO!

DON'T EVEN THINK OF TRYING TO ESCAPE! THEY'LL RIP YOU TO SHREDS!

I'LL HAVE THE ANIMALS BRING YOU MEALS HERE EVERY DAY...

THINK WE'LL REALLY NEVER BE ABLE TO GO HOME?

I MIGHT BE ABLE TO, BUT YOU PROB'LY WON'T...

YAY HIP HIP HOORAY!

YAY! I WON'T HAVE TO DO ANY HOMEWORK!! HEE HEE!

SHIB... YOU IDIOT...

WE'RE TALKING ABOUT FOREVER!!

FOREVER?! HEEE HEE HA HA HA... ⸗SNIFF€... ⸗SOB€...

WHAT THE--?!

IT'S DINNER!!

WAIT A MINUTE... I HEAR FOOT-STEPS ABOVE THE CEILING!

MUST BE ANOTHER ROOM RIGHT ABOVE US!

LISTEN, SHIB... TO ESCAPE, ALL WE NEED TO DO IS BREAK THROUGH THE CEILING!

REALLY ?!

B-BUT WHILE YOU'RE SMASHING THROUGH THE CEILING, THE BULLDOGS'LL EAT ME ALIVE!

THAT'S WHY WE BOTH GO *TOGETHER!*

UH OH... THEY'RE ONTO US...

KABASH

YARF!

WE JUST STOLE A BASE IN THE GAME, SHIB!

SMASH

SAFE, AND HOME FREE!

ARRRGH!

WE *MADE IT!*

HEY, WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR TROUSERS, SHIB?!

THEY CAME OFF WHEN WE BLASTED UP HERE!

WELL, YOU LOOK BETTER WITHOUT 'EM...

B-BUT I CAN'T GO OUTSIDE LIKE *THIS!*

RIP

SHRED

DON'T WORRY, YOU'RE NOT GOING *ANY-WHERE*... YOU'RE GOING BACK *DOWNSTAIRS!*

UH OH... IT'S *RED CAT!*

SO IT WAS *YOUR* FOOTSTEPS I HEARD!

HOW CLEVER OF YOU.... BUT THERE'S NO ESCAPE, SO PUT YOUR HANDS UP!

WHEN I PUT MY HANDS UP, *THIS* IS WHAT HAPPENS!

VOOOSH

THUD

LOOK, SHIB! IT'S THE CAT'S *HEAD!*

HOLY SMOKE! IT'S PROFESSOR FELINI!

...WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE!

IT'S A GHOST! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!

!

CRUNCH

?

HAALP!

HEY! THIS IS THE HOUSE PROFESSOR FELINI USED TO LIVE IN!

HEY, LOOK! IT'S SHIBUGAKI!

WHAT'S WITH THE NEW LOOK, SHIB?!

HEH HEH... YOU LOOK PRETTY FUNNY!

DON'T LAUGH AT HIM! HE MIGHT BEAT US UP! WHAT HAPPENED, SHIB?

IT WAS THE RED CAT!!

YOU'RE GONNA GO TO SCHOOL LIKE THAT?!

FINISH YOUR HOME-WORK, SHIB?

WHAT?! YOU MEAN I WAS ONLY IMPRISONED FER ONE NIGHT?!

HOMEWORK!! I'VE GOTTA GET IT DONE LICKETY SPLIT!

? ! ? ?

KEN! LEMME COPY YER HOMEWORK! PLEASE!

COPY IT?! B-BUT YOU DON'T EVEN HAVE PAPER OR PENCIL WITH YOU, SHIB...

YER RIGHT!

WONDER WHAT GOT INTO HIM...?

MORNING, MR. MUSTA-CHIO!

MORN-ING, TEACH-ER!

YOU KIDS SEE SHIBUGAKI ANYWHERE?

HE RAN HOME, SAYING HE HAD TO DO HIS HOME-WORK!

SHIB'S EVEN MORE SCARED OF HOMEWORK THAN HE IS OF THE RED CAT!

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN, TEACHER?

IT SURE DID. IT'S A BIG CASE...

LISTEN, KEN... I'M GOT TO GO TO PROFESSOR OCHAN-OMIZU'S PLACE, SO I WON'T BE TEACHING THE FIRST HOUR.

BANZAI! SELF-STUDY!!

FORGET THE BANZAIS, TAMAO. YOUR CLASS PRESIDENT, KEN, WILL MAKE SURE EVERYONE DOES THEIR WORK!

YESSIR...

HM... SO WHAT YOU SAW LAST NIGHT WASN'T A DREAM... AND FELINI'S REALLY ALIVE...

THERE'S NO MISTAKE, PROFESSOR... IT *WAS* HIM...

LESSEE... THAT MEANS THE PROFESSOR ONLY *PRETENDED* TO COMMIT SUICIDE, AND THAT HE'S WEARING A *CAT MASK*...

WE'LL ISSUE A WARRANT FOR FELINI'S ARREST RIGHT AWAY THEN!

NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, DETECTIVE!

LET ME MEET WITH HIM AND TRY TO SEE WHY HE'S BEEN ENGAGED IN THIS NONSENSE!

THERE'S NO TIME FOR THAT! IF WE DAWDLE ANYMORE, THIS COULD TURN INTO A HUGE CASE...

BUT IF YOU MAKE TOO BIG A DEAL OF IT, HE MIGHT TRY TO ESCAPE! IF I GO TO MEET HIM ALONE, HE MIGHT UNDERSTAND BETTER...

TAKE ME WITH YOU, PROFESSOR... JUST IN CASE...

DON'T WORRY... I'LL BE FINE, INSPECTOR NAKAMURA!

THIS MANSION WAS SURE IN BETTER SHAPE TWENTY YEARS AGO... I USED TO COME HERE AND VISIT A LOT MYSELF...

PROFESSOR FELINI! IT'S ME, *OCHANOMIZU!*

LISTEN, FELINI! I CAME HERE ALONE. DON'T WORRY, YOU CAN COME OUT NOW...

WHERE'S THE GHOST OF PROFESSOR FELINI!?

LISTEN, FELINI... I KNOW HOW HARD THIS HAS BEEN... THE MUSASHINO AREA YOU LOVED SO MUCH HAS BEEN DESTROYED... YOU LISTENING, FELINI?

THERE YOU ARE!

LISTEN, FELINI...

HA HA HA! LET'S QUIT THE HIDE AND SEEK, OCHANOMIZU... IT'S BEEN A LONG TIME...

SO YOU *WEREN'T* DEAD!

FIT AS A *FIDDLE*, RIGHT HERE! THAT SKELETON YOU FOUND WAS JUST A SPECIMEN I TOOK FROM THE ANATOMY LAB...

B-BUT WHY'D YOU DO ALL THIS?

'CAUSE I WANTED TO PRETEND I WAS DEAD... THAT'S WHY I PRETENDED TO BE CHIRI, MY CAT!

I HAD THE KIDS WHO SAW MY BONES IN THE CAVE COME HERE.... I SET THINGS UP SO THEY'D *FIND* THE BONES...

THE BONES DISCOVERED, THEN MY CAT, CHIRI, TRIES TO GET REVENGE FOR ME... GREAT STORYLINE, NO? *HA HA HA!*

BUT YOU'VE HURT A LOT OF INNOCENT PEOPLE... AND CAUSED A HUGE PROBLEM... IT'S TIME TO *STOP*, FELINI!

NEVER!

IT'S NOT ME! MOTHER NATURE'S GETTING REVENGE ON HUMANS! AND IT'S GOING TO CONTINUE!

STAY OUT OF THIS, OCHANOMIZU!

LISTEN, FELINI! YOU'RE GOING *CRAZY!* LISTEN TO ME, YOUR OLD *FRIEND*...

AN OLD FRIEND WOULD LEAVE ME *ALONE!*

HE WOULDN'T ACT LIKE YOU...

GO TELL THE OFFICIALS AT THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION! IF THEY DON'T STOP DEVELOPING THE PARK... SOMETHING TERRIBLE'LL HAPPEN, BY *AUGUST 7TH!*

HA HA HA HA HA!

WELL, HOW'D IT GO, PROFES-SOR?

I MET HIM...

EVERY-THING'S BEEN HIS DOING ALL ALONG...

THAT'S TERRIBLE!

I KNOW, AND HE SAYS SOMETHING REALLY TERRIBLE WILL HAPPEN ON AUGUST 7TH!

AUGUST 7TH?

OKAY, ONE GROUP CHECK UNDER ROCKS FOR AN OPENING!

TURN OVER EVERYTHING THAT LOOKS LIKE A ROCK!

I'M GONNA TAKE THIS ONE HOME...

IT'LL HELP WEIGH DOWN MY PICKEL BARREL!

YIKES! CENTIPEDES!

OOMPH!

INSPECTOR NAKAMURA, SIR! WE'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE, AND WE CAN'T FIND A TRACE OF AN UNDERGROUND PASSAGE!

MR. CONDO! I RECOMMEND YOU STOP CONSTRUCTION! FELINI'S THREAT FOR AUGUST 7TH IS *TOO DANGEROUS!*

AH, BUT WITHOUT AN ORDER FROM THE CITY, I *CAN'T* STOP...

SO I'M GOING AHEAD WITH THE PROJECT...

OTHER-WISE THE CITY WILL LOSE FACE...

MEOOOW

LESSEEE... SAYS "DECISION TO CONTINUE CONSTRUCTION... A TALK WITH MR. CONDO, THE HEAD OF THE CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT..."

HMPH... I'LL MAKE SURE NO ONE FORGETS AUGUST 7TH!

THE DAY'S COMING SOON, CHIRI! HAPPY, EH? JUST DO AS I TAUGHT YOU, AND TAKE A MESSAGE TO THE PLACE I TOLD YOU...

TRASH

TRASH

UENO ZOO OFFICE

ZZZ

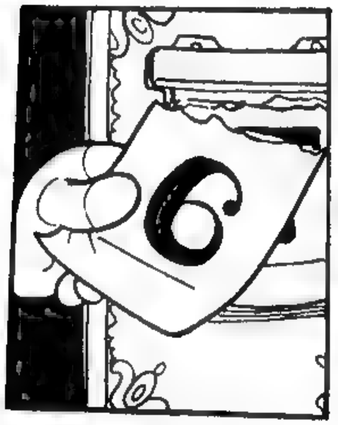
Night Watch Schedule

GOSH, THE ANIMALS SURE ARE *QUIET* TONIGHT...

YEAH... WHEN THEY'RE *TOO* NOISY, EVEN *WE* CAN'T SLEEP...

AARRR-GAAH!

KABONK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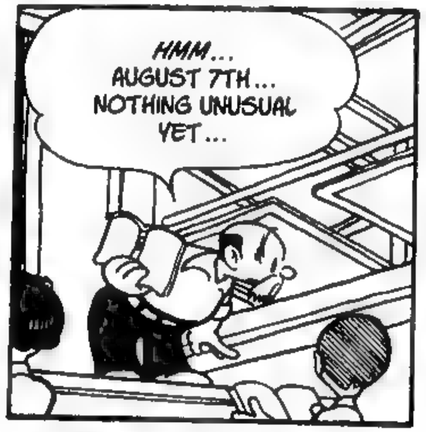
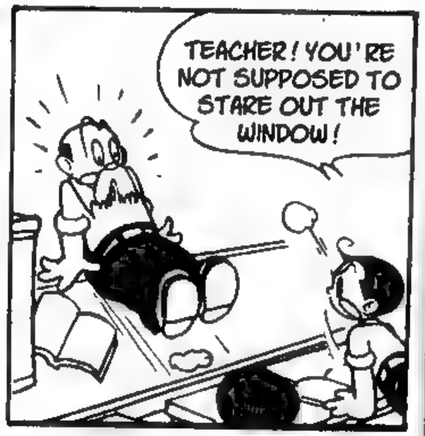
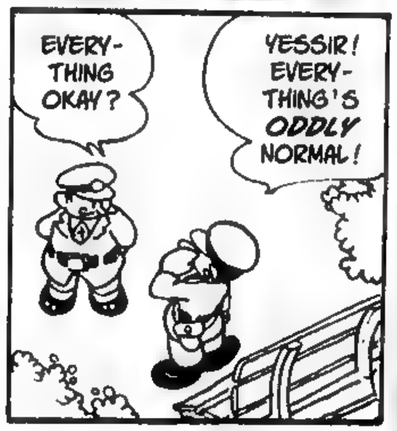
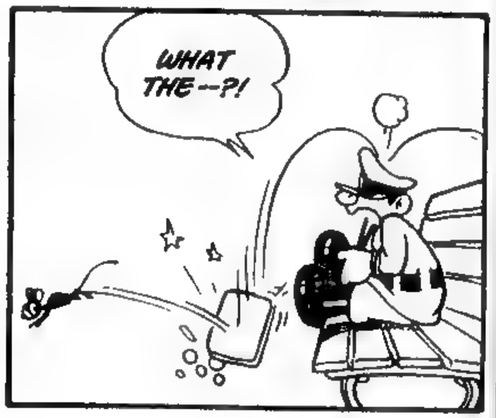

HMM... AUGUST 7TH... NOTHING UNUSUAL YET...

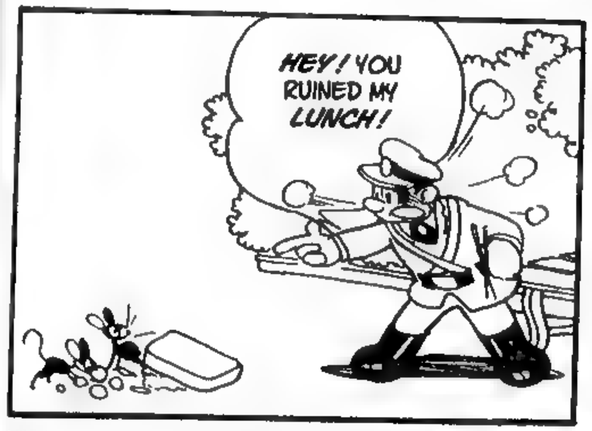

TEACHER! YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO STARE OUT THE WINDOW!

WONDER WHY NOTHING'S HAPPENED YET?


EVERY-THING OKAY?
YESSIR! EVERY-THING'S ODDLY NORMAL!

YAWN... MUST BE TIME FOR LUNCH!


WHAT THE--?!

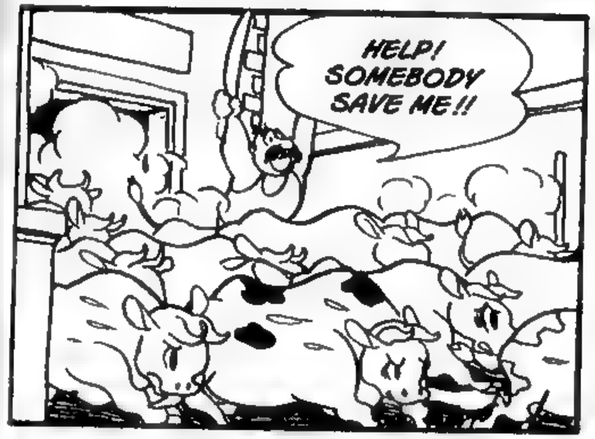

HEY! YOU RUINED MY LUNCH!

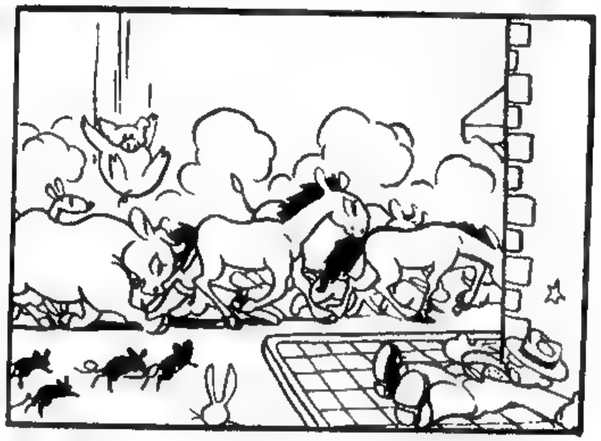
SCREECH!
YIKES! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

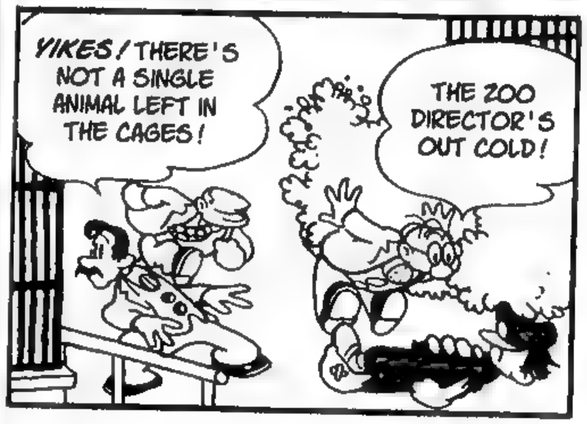
EEK! THE DOG'S GOING CRAZY!
SMASH SMASH

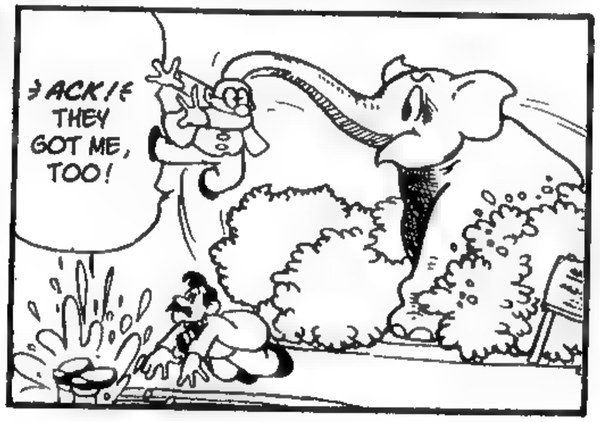
HELLO?! A HORSE BROKE INTO MY STORE!!

HAALP!
CHINESE MEDICINE
MANDRAKE SNAKE POWDER


HELP! SOMEBODY SAVE ME!!




YIKES! THERE'S NOT A SINGLE ANIMAL LEFT IN THE CAGES!
THE ZOO DIRECTOR'S OUT COLD!


ACK! THEY GOT ME, TOO!

STOP WORK!
IT'S LUNCHTIME!
YAY!
WELL, WE'VE CLEARED SIXTY PERCENT...
THIS PLACE'LL BE REALLY FUN AFTER THEY BUILD AN ENTERTAINMENT CENTER...
HEY! SCRAM !!
CAT'S GOT A LOT OF NERVE!
IT'S NOT JUST A CAT!
YIKES! WILD DOGS!!
KACHANK
OWWWW...
HEY! IT'S S'POSED TO BE LUNCH BREAK!
HOLY COW!
KABOOM
SMASH
CLANK
CLANK
CRUNCH
ARGHH!
HAALP!
WHAT?! HORDES OF ANIMALS HAVE ATTACKED THE SITE? ANY DAMAGE?!
IT'S FINALLY HAPPENED... IT'S THE CURSE OF PROFESSOR FELINI!
NOW, DON'T TELL US YOU'RE GOING TO DELAY THE PROJECT BECAUSE OF THAT!
YOU'RE NOT DIRECTLY INVOLVED! YOU JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND!

THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION'LL BLAME US IF THE PROJECT'S DELAYED...
AND WE'LL BE HELD RESPONSIBLE IF IT GOES OVER BUDGET, TOO!
YOU OFFICIALS CAN ALWAYS WEASEL OUT OF THINGS! BUT NOT ME! I'M THE ONE EVERYONE'LL BLAME!
HONK
ROAR
BLEET
GRAAR
ROAR
PEEP
HONK
GRAAOR
GYA GYA
CHIRP CHIRP
BLAT BLEEP
WOW! LOOK AT THAT DEMONSTRATION! AND THEY'RE ALL ANIMALS!
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO GO HOME...
EVERYONE'S TRAPPED IN THEIR OFFICES!
SUPER-INTENDENT! CAN'T YOU REACH ANYONE?
I'VE TRIED 102 TIMES! NO ONE ANSWERS AT THE POLICE STATION!
IT'S NO USE! THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION'S BEEN SURROUNDED!
WE'RE DOOMED!
WE'RE UNDER SEIGE !!
HURRY! MAKE A BARRI-CADE!
PILE UP ALL THE FURNITURE!
BAM
CRASH
THUD

EEEEK! HAAALP!

MR. MUSTACHIO! THE SCHOOLYARD'S FULL OF *WILD DOGS!*

CAN YOU HEAR WHAT'S GOING ON, ASTRO?

YEAH... TOKYO'S FILLED WITH THE CRIES OF ANIMALS AND BIRDS!

WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THAT *ANIMALS* COULD STAGE A *DEMONSTRATION!*

WAAH!E I WANNA GO HOME!

WAAH!E

MOMMY!

THIS AIR GUN'S AN *ANTIQUE*, BUT MAYBE IT'LL COME IN HANDY!

MUSTACHIO! SHOOTING ONE OR TWO OF 'EM WON'T HELP...

KABLAAM

GUESS IT WAS TOO OLD...

MUST BE MILLIONS OF 'EM... WHO WOULD'VE THOUGHT THERE WERE THIS MANY ANIMALS IN TOKYO?!

NOW'S NOT THE TIME TO BE IMPRESSED!

WAAH!E I'M *HUNGRY!*

I WANT MY *MOMMY!*

OKAY, EVERYBODY WHO'S GOTTA GO HOME, GET IN HERE!

BE CAREFUL, ASTRO...

UH OH... I DIDN'T THINK ABOUT THE *BIRDS!*

EEEK!

HALP!

I'M *SCARED!*

MOMMY!

OMPH!E

HEY! WHO PUT *A SCHOOL BAG* OVER ME?!

KERSMASH

EEEK!

WHOMP

MOMMY!!

GENTLEMEN! WE NOW HAVE AN ENTIRELY NEW ENEMY TO FACE! ONE NEITHER HUMAN NOR ROBOT! IT'S *WILD ANIMALS!*

IF WE FAIL TO STOP THEM HERE, THEY'LL TAKE OVER ALL *JAPAN!*

WE'VE GOT TO STOP THEM, AT *ALL COSTS!*

WELL, WE CAN'T USE BOMBS OR GUNS! THIS IS TOKYO, AFTER ALL! WE CAN'T AFFORD TO INJURE PEOPLE!

RIGHT, AND FIRING A BULLET INTO THAT HORDE OF ANIMALS WOULD BE LIKE TOSSING A PEBBLE IN THE OCEAN! IT WOULDN'T HAVE ANY EFFECT!

FIRST OF ALL, WE NEED TO KNOW HOW THE ANIMALS COULD UNITE AND STAGE A RIOT LIKE THIS!

HMM. SO YOU THINK THERE'S SOMETHING BEHIND THIS UPROAR?

...YOU THINK THERE'S SOME SORT OF SCIENTIFIC *TRICK* AT WORK HERE?

MEANWHILE, ANIMALS ATTACKED A TRAIN BRINGING EMERGENCY SUPPLIES INTO TOKYO....

IN RESPONSE TO AN *SOS* BROADCAST, COUNTRIES AROUND THE WORLD TRIED TO HELP...

THEY DROPPED FOOD BY PARACHUTE...

...BUT ALMOST NONE OF IT REACHED THE HUMANS.

EVEN IF IT REACHED THE GROUND...

...IT WAS USUALLY EATEN BY THE *ANIMALS* RIGHT AWAY...

THEY SURE ACT LIKE IT'S *DELICIOUS*...

I CAN HARDLY STAND TO WATCH, MUSTACHIO...

I FEEL SORRY FOR MY PUPILS...

WE HAVEN'T HAD ANY-THING TO EAT FOR TWO DAYS!

WE'LL HAVE TO PUT TOGETHER A *SUICIDE CORPS* AND TRY 'N *GRAB* SOME FOOD FROM THE ANIMALS!

IT'S FOR THE SAKE OF THE KIDS!

PHEW...

HACK...

PUFF...

IT'S NOW OR NEVER, MEN!

BONK
THUNK
WAIT, TEACHER!
WHAT'RE YOU KIDS DOING?! WE'RE TRYING TO GET YOU SOME FOOD!
BUT YOU LOOK SO GOOFY, THE ANIMALS'LL PROBABLY *EAT YOU UP!*
YOU'VE GOTTA STOP!
WE CAN HOLD OUT LONGER!
SOME-ONE'LL COME TO HELP US!
GOSH, SNIFF... YOU'RE SUCH *GOOD* KIDS!
ASTRO'S THE ONE WHO'LL GET US OUT OF THIS SITUATION!
LOOK! HE'S STILL *STUCK* IN THE BUILDING!
THERE MUST BE A WAY TO GET HIM OVER HERE...
I KNOW! I'VE GOT IT!
STILTS! IF SOMEBODY WEARS STILTS THE ANIMALS'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO REACH HIM!
BUT WHAT IF THE *BIRDS* ATTACK?!
I KNOW... HE COULD CARRY *FIRE!* ANIMALS'RE AFRAID OF FIRE RIGHT?
OKAY. *I'LL* DO IT! I'M GOOD AT STILTS!
GO FOR IT, SHIBUGAKI!
WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU, PAL!

ONLY TEN MORE YARDS TO GO!
FIVE MORE YARDS!
WAY TO GO, *SHIB!!*
I CAN'T STAND TO WATCH!
SHIB! LOOK DOWN!
HISSSS
WHAT?! SHIBUGAKI WENT OUTSIDE?! WHO LET HIM?!
SHIBUGAKI! YOU *FOOL!* WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!
HE'S NO FOOL, TEACHER! IF HE CAN SAVE *ASTRO*, ASTRO CAN SAVE *US!*
NO! YOU SHOULD'VE LET *ME* GO!
HE'S PULLING ASTRO OUT!
RRR GRRR
I'M HERE TA SAVE YOU, ASTRO!!
LET'S GO HOME! YIKES! *OWW! OWW!*
WHA?!
WHA?!
WHA?!

WE'VE GOTTA HELP SHIB!

VROOM

GROWL?

BOAR?

WHAT THE HECK?!

IT'S PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!

HIS INSIDES WERE SMASHED FROM COLLIDING WITH THE BUILDING...

DON'T JUST STAND THERE! GET ME THAT MINI-COMPUTER IN THE DRAWER THERE! WE'VE GOTTA BRING ASTRO BACK TO LIFE!

GRRR

GRRR

HURRY UP, SHIBUGAKI! DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE WINDOW! IT'S MADE OF SPECIAL REINFORCED GLASS THAT THEY CAN'T BREAK!

YOU SURE YOU'RE NOT GONNA RUIN HIM, PROFESSOR?

NO! I'VE GOTTA FIX HIM AND HAVE HIM SEARCH FOR PROFESSOR FELINI!

B-BUT WHAT'LL YOU DO IF YOU DO FIND HIM?

I NEED TO TALK TO HIM ONE MORE TIME... I'LL GO WITH HIM TO THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION AND FILE AN APPEAL!

SURE HOPE THIS WORKS...

ZAP ZAP

ZAP ZAP BZZT

DON'T TOUCH HIM, SHIBUGAKI!

SHI-BU-GAKI ...

ONE TOUCH, AND YOU'LL BE KILLED, SHIB...

LOOK AT HIM... HIS BODY'S LIKE AN ATOMIC BOMB RIGHT NOW!

HERE I GO...

CREAK

GRAOOAR

AIEEEE!

AAAGGGH!

ROWRR!

GET OUT OF THE WAY, OR I'LL MOVE YOU...

TOUCH ME, AND I'LL TURN YOU TO ASHES! OUT OF THE WAY...

SEARCHING FROM ABOVE'S A LOT FASTER!

WONDER WHERE FELINI IS?!

I HEAR KIDS CRYING NEAR HERE!

MUST BE COMING FROM THAT APARTMENT BUILDING!

HERE WE GO!

SMASH

MUST BE THIS ROOM...

NOPE... IT'S FURTHER DOWN...

KABASH

UH OH...

WHAT'RE *YOU* DOING HERE?!

YOU'VE GOTTA RELEASE THE *KIDS*, FELINI!!

YOU'RE USING AN *ULTRASONIC HYPNOTIZER*, AREN'T YOU?! THAT'S HOW YOU'VE BEEN CONTROLLING THE ANIMALS, ISN'T IT?!

WHAT'RE YOU DOING?! *STOP!!*

RAAAAR! FUGYAAA!

AIIEEEE!

CHIRI! DEAR CHIRI!

DEAR CHIRI... MY ONLY TRUE FRIEND...

PROFES-SOR *FELINI P!!*

THE ONE AND ONLY FELINI! AND NOW I WANT *REVENGE!!*

CALM DOWN, PROFESSOR... I'M A *ROBOT!*

RIGHT, AND IT'S NOT *YOU* I'LL KILL...

... IT'S THE *KIDS* I'VE GOT KIDNAPPED IN HERE!!

B-BUT THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG!!

HEE HEE... I'M GONNA GET REVENGE ON ANYONE I WANT...

TAKE *THIS!*

ZAP ZAP ZAP

AIEEEE!

KABOOOOM

WHAT?! YOU DECIDED TO TURN THAT OPEN SPACE INTO BUILDINGS ON YOUR OWN, WITHOUT BEING ORDERED TO DO SO?

MUSASHINO CULTURE CENTER

MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION

YOU'VE REALLY CREATED A MESS OF THIS...

I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU PLANNED TO PROFIT FROM THIS, BUT YOU'VE REALLY MADE THE PEOPLE OF TOKYO SUFFER, THAT'S FOR SURE!

YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN PUT AN END TO THIS! GIVE THE ORDER TO STOP CONSTRUCTION!

LOOK! THE ANIMALS ARE ALL ACTING WEIRD!

THAT'S ODD...

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED?

THEY'VE STARTED EATING EACH OTHER!

IT WAS A HUGE SURPRISE. BUT WITHOUT PROFESSOR FELINI'S ULTRASONIC WAVES, THE ANIMALS HAD AWAKENED FROM THEIR HYPNOTIZED STATE AND RETURNED TO THEIR ORIGINAL NATURE...

THE CITIZENS OF TOKYO, WHO HAD FEARED FOR THEIR LIVES, WERE FINALLY SAFE...

REHABILITATION HOSPITAL

AFTER BEING HURT BY HIS OWN BOMB, PROFESSOR FELINI MUST BE IN AWFULLY BAD SHAPE...

YES, I'M AFRAID HE ONLY HAS A COUPLE DAYS LEFT TO LIVE...

HE KEEPS CALLING OUT THE NAME OF MIYAMOTO MUSASHI, THE FAMOUS SAMURAI WARRIOR...

HAH! YOU'RE HEARING WRONG! IT'S MUSASHINO!

PROFESSOR FELINI, IT'S ME...OCHAN-OMIZU...

GIVE... BACK... MUSASHINO...

DON'T WORRY, PROFESSOR... I'VE GOT A WRITTEN PROMISE FROM THE MINISTRY OF CONSTRUCTION! SEE? NO ONE'LL TOUCH THAT FOREST AGAIN!

THANK YOU... THANK YOU... LOOK, CHIRI...

YOU'VE GOT TO GET BETTER, FELINI...

IF I DIE, OLD FRIEND, BURY ME IN MUSASHINO'S FOREST...

I WANT TO BECOME PART OF THE FOREST, AND TO PROTECT IT FOREVER...

THEY SAY PEOPLE WALKING THROUGH MUSASHINO SHOULD WALK WITH NO PARTICULAR DESTINATION IN MIND...

...THAT THEY SHOULD JUST ENJOY WALKING ON THE PATH THEY'RE ON...

...AND THAT IT'LL LEAD TO SOMETHING UNEXPECTED...

...PERHAPS TO AN OLD CEMETERY DEEP IN THE FOREST...

WHERE THERE'S A MOSS-COVERED OLD GRAVESTONE...

IF YOU HEAR BIRDS SINGING ABOVE YOU, YOU WILL BE HAPPY....

GRAVE OF PROFESSOR FELINI

NO MATTER HOW MUCH DEVELOPMENT TAKES PLACE, MUSASHINO WILL ALWAYS STAY THE SAME...

AND IT WAITS THERE, FOR YOUR ENJOYMENT, FOREVER...

MUSASHINO
BY DOPPO KUNIKIDA

THE MIDORO SWAMP

First serialized from August to November 1956
in *Shonen* magazine.

"IN 1933, A HIGHWAY WAS CONSTRUCTED AROUND ***LOCH NESS***, IN SCOTLAND. EVER SINCE THEN, MANY PEOPLE CLAIM TO HAVE SEEN A GIANT MONSTER THAT INHABITS IN THE LAKE. THE LEGEND OF THE ***LOCH NESS MONSTER*** APPARENTLY GOES BACK MUCH FURTHER, BUT IN 1934 SOMEONE SNAPPED A PHOTOGRAPH OF IT, STICKING ITS LONG NECK OUT OF THE WATER..."

IN 1952, A BRITISH NEWSPAPER FEATURED A LONG REPORT ON IT...

...AND IN 1956, A MAGAZINE ISSUED BY THE ROYAL BRITISH MUSEUM ALSO INTRODUCED IT IN GREAT DETAIL.

AROUND THE SAME TIME, MAGAZINES IN JAPAN ALSO STARTED RUNNING LOTS OF ARTICLES ABOUT THE LOCH NESS MONSTER...

THE "MIDORO SWAMP" EPISODE YOU'RE ABOUT TO READ WAS INSPIRED BY THESE STORIES...

YOU'LL NOTICE A SCENE IN THE STORY WHERE INSPECTOR NAKAMURA IS EATING AN ICE CREAM...

I WAS INFLUENCED BY THE FACT THAT AROUND THAT TIME, SOFT ICE CREAM REALLY TOOK OFF IN JAPAN.

ALSO, MITSUTERU YOKOYAMA, FAMOUS FOR *GIGANTOR*, HAD JUST DEBUTED AS AN ARTIST, AND HE HELPED CREATE PART OF THIS STORY.

HE DREW THE SCENES OF WORKERS BEING ATTACKED BY THE LIZARDS...

ALSO, I SHOULD MENTION THAT THE FINAL SCENE IS DIFFERENT IN THE MAGAZINE AND BOOK VERSIONS.

IN THE MAGAZINE VERSION, COBALT DIES... HE DIES FIGHTING VALIANTLY, IN FACT...

SPLISH

SPLISH SPLISH

HOOO HOOOO HOOOO...

HOW'D IT GO?

EASY AS PIE... YOU'LL SEE THE DIAMONDS IN A SEC...

THE JEWELER TURNED AS PALE AS A SAPPHIRE... NEVER EXPECTED THINGS TO BE THIS EASY!

YOU GUYS MUST BE *STARVING*... I'M ROASTING SOME MEAT FOR YOU RIGHT NOW...

WOW... SMELLS *GREAT!*

SPLISH SPLISH

FWOOOOOSH

SPLOOSH

WHA?! WHO THREW MUD ON US?!

HEY! THE *MEAT'S GONE!!*

MUST BE SOME STRAY DOGS ON THIS ISLAND! DRIVE 'EM AWAY!!

WHAT THE--?!

HEY! WHAT HAPPENED? A DOG BITE YOU?!

IT... IT WAS A K-KAPPA... ONE OF THOSE MYSTERIOUS RIVER MONSTERS THEY TALK ABOUT IN BOOKS!

I KID YOU NOT! IT HAD THIS RAW SMELL TO IT... I STEPPED ON IT....

GUYS... THE BAG WITH THE JEWELS IS *GONE!*

SOMEBODY MUST'VE TAKEN IT WHILE HE WAS MAKING A RACKET!

OKAY... WHOEVER TOOK THE JEWELS, PUT 'EM HERE, RIGHT *NOW*...

IF YOU DON'T, YOU'LL BE TREATED AS A *TRAI-TOR!*

IT WASN'T ME, I *SWEAR!*

HAALP!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

YOU READ THE ARTICLE ABOUT THE TRAGEDY AT MIDORO SWAMP LAST NIGHT, INSPECTOR? ABOUT THE FIVE JEWELRY THIEVES...?

THE ONE ABOUT THE FIVE MEN, ALL FOUND HORRIBLY *MURDERED?* YUP, I READ IT ALL RIGHT. A MOST *BIZARRE* CASE...

IT SEEMS CRAZY, BUT PEOPLE DO SAY THERE'S SOMETHING AWFULLY *WEIRD* OUT THERE IN THAT SWAMP...

IN THE SUBURBS OF MODERN TOKYO? COME ON, YOU'VE GOTTA BE *KIDDING!*

HOTEL MIDORO

MAN, AM I EVER BEAT...

I NEED SOME REAL ENERGY... COULD YOU COOK ME UP A LEG OF BEEF?

THAT'S A PRO BOXER FOR YA... A HUGE APPETITE, EVEN IN THE SUMMER!

YOU'RE GOING EAT THAT ALL *YOURSELF,* SIR?

SURE AM... GOSH, THIS MEAT'S *TOUGH...*

'BETTER *TENDERIZE* IT A BIT...

BAM BAM BAM

WHOOPS! KABASH! UH...

HOLD ON, THERE'S SOMETHING THERE!

BRING ME A LIGHT WILL YOU? A LIGHT!

WHAT THE--?! IT'S A KAPPA!!

A KAPPA?! FINALLY!

WAIT! COME BACK!

PHWAP

.....
.....

BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM
POW
POW
SHAAA
SPLISH
IT "SPIRITED" OFF THE BEEF, BUT THE BOXER'S AFTER HIM NOW!
HE'LL GIVE HIM THE OLD SIRLOIN UPPER-CUT, I BET!
YOU THINK KAPPAS EAT STEAK?
IF THEY DO, THEY PROB'LY EAT PEOPLE, TOO!
THERE'S THE BOXER!
HEE HEE HEE..
SHAAA...
KERTHUD
DON'T JUST STAND THERE! GET AN *AMBULANCE!!*
WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THESE TWO CASES, MUSTACHIO?
MINI MUSEUM OF FANTASY KAPPA DISPLAY
WELL, GIVEN WHAT HAPPENED BEFORE, THIS COULD BE SEEN AS THE WORK OF SOMEONE AFTER THE *JEWELS*...
RIGHT, BUT IN THIS NEW CASE, THE CRIMINAL WAS APPARENTLY ONLY AFTER THE *BEEF*...
MAYBE WE OUGHT TO HAVE ASTRO SEARCH THE LAKE BOTTOM...
THE MIDORO SWAMP IS A DESIGNATED NATURE SPOT, AND THE NAME APPARENTLY COMES FROM *AO-MIDORO*, A TYPE OF POND SCUM...

♪HMPH♪.... I SEE WHAT YOU MEAN. EVEN A DIVER WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO SEARCH THROUGH THIS VERY WELL...
WOW... THIS SEA-WEED'S REALLY DENSE...
IF YOU SEE A KAPPA, ASTRO, MAKE SURE YOU DON'T SCARE HIM AWAY...
WE JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE HE'S REALLY THERE...
YES SIR...
HERE I GO!
♪HMM♪... THERE'S SOMETHING ODD HERE...
THESE ARE *TURTLE SHELLS!!*
GLUB BLUB BLUB
LOOK HOW MANY SHELLS I GOT!
WOW...
AMAZ-ING!
ALL SHELLS, EH?

HERE'S THE PROOF WE NEED! THE MONSTER'S PROBABLY EATEN ALL THE TURTLES IN THE SWAMP, AND STARTED LOOKING FOR MEAT SOMEWHERE ELSE TO EAT!

NO SWAMP KAPPA'S GONNA STAND UP TO THE POWER OF *SCIENCE!*

WE'VE DRAINED A QUARTER OF THE WATER SO FAR, SIR...

THE THING'LL BE COMPLETELY *EMPTY* BY TOMORROW NIGHT...

WE GOT PERMISSION FROM THE NATURE PRESERVATION LEAGUE TO DRAIN THE SWAMP...

NOW WE'RE TALKING...

PLEASE... STOP... DRAINING... THE SWAMP... PLEASE...

WHAT THE --?!

PLEASE... STOP... PLEASE... SHAAAA...

A- A-A- ASTRO! *HAALP!*

WHAT HAPPENED, TEACHER?!

YIKES!

STOP!!

WHACK

FWWISSH

POP

RATS! HE GOT AWAY!

YOU ALL RIGHT, TEACHER?!

IF YOU HADN'T COME WHEN YOU DID, ASTRO, I'D BE A GONER... BUT THAT WAS NO *KAPPA*...

I *KNOW... LOOK* ...

YIKES!! IT'S A *TAIL!!*

IN THE NOH PLAY, *RASHOMON*, WATANABE NO TSUNA CUTS OFF A DEMON'S ARM...

I'LL BET THE MONSTER COMES TO GET HIS TAIL BACK...

I'M TELLING YOU, PROFESSOR... IT SPOKE *HUMAN LANGUAGE*...

HE MUST'VE BEEN AROUND FOR A LONG TIME...

I'LL SAY...

DID YOU TELL HIM, ASTRO?

NO, NOT YET...

MUSTACHIO, YOU MAY FIND THIS HARD TO BELIEVE...

...BUT ASTRO ONCE WENT TO *LOCH NESS*, IN SCOTLAND.

LOCH NESS ?!

RIGHT. THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT ASKED HIM TO SEARCH THE LAKE, AND HE DID, AND FOUND THERE WAS A GIANT LIZARD LIKE THIS....

COULD IT SPEAK *ENGLISH* ?!

.....

.....

.....

IT WAS APPARENTLY A RELIC FROM ANOTHER ERA...

AND IN THAT ERA, IT MAY HAVE BEEN LIKE HUMANS...

...ALTHOUGH A LIZARD, IT MAY HAVE *RULED THE WORLD*, JUST AS WE HUMANS DO TODAY...

SO THIS IS A *MAJOR DISCOVERY!*

MEANWHILE, SO MUCH WATER HAD BEEN DRAINED FROM MIDORO SWAMP THAT PEOPLE COULD SEE THE BOTTOM...

DRAINAGE PROCEEDING OKAY WITH NO.1 PUMP!

?

YIKES!

IT'S THE *MONSTER!*

BLAM BLAM BLAM

S-STOP THE DRAINAGE... STOP IT!!

PUT WATER... BACK IN THE SWAMP!!

B-BUT BOSS, THAT DOESN'T MAKE *SENSE*... IF WE DO THAT, THE SWAMP *BOTTOM* WILL...

IT'S AN *ORDER* FROM *HEADQUARTERS!* JUST DO AS I SAY!

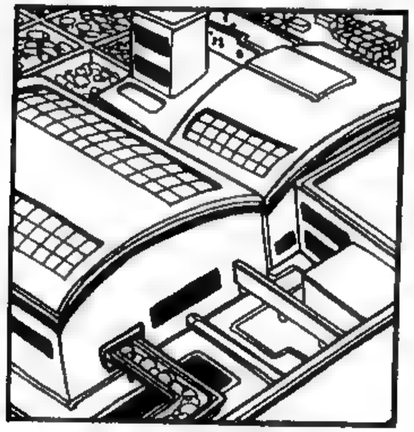
VOOOSH

VOOOSH

I'M SORRY, BUT I JUST DON'T GET THIS...

ARGH!
UNGH!

HELLO? THIS THE CONSTRUCTION SITE? SAY SOMETHING!
NO ONE'S ANSWERING! ALL I CAN HEAR IS A MISSING SOUND...

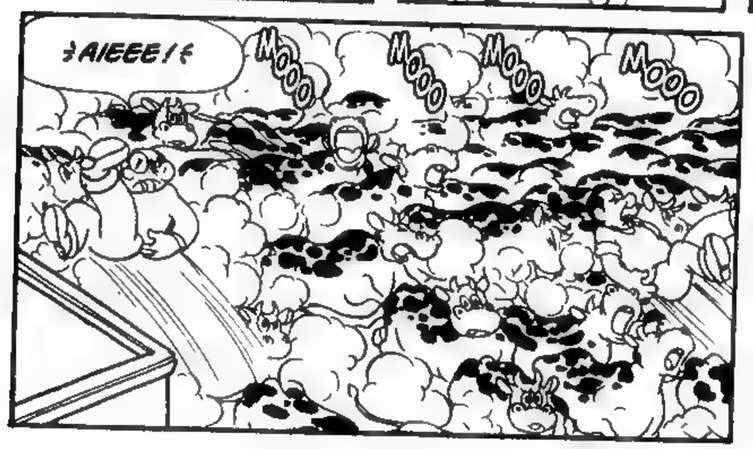


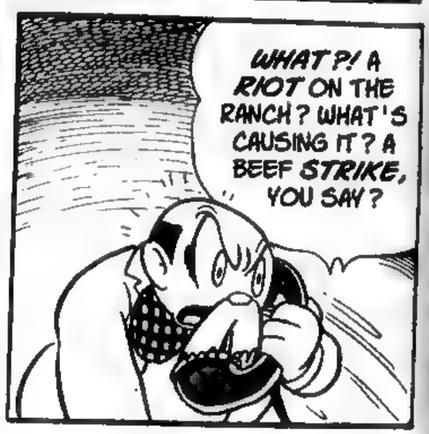
?
?

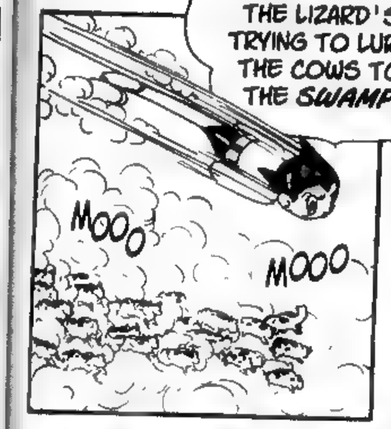
MOOO...

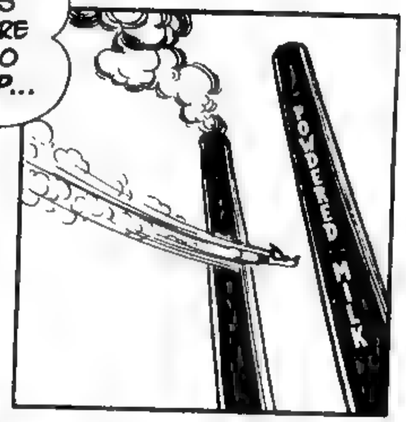
'N MOOO!

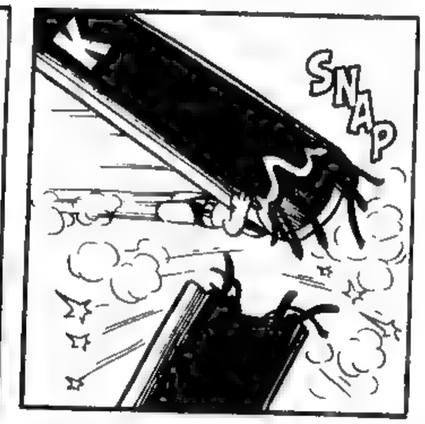
HALP! SOMEBODY STOP THE HERD!

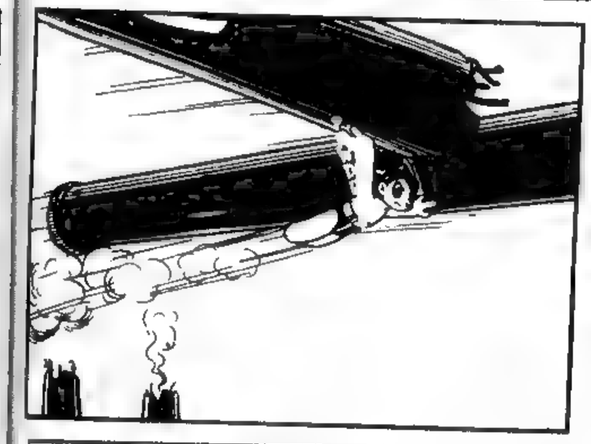

AIEEE!
MOOO
MOOO
MOOO
MOOO


WHAT?! A RIOT ON THE RANCH? WHAT'S CAUSING IT? A BEEF STRIKE, YOU SAY?

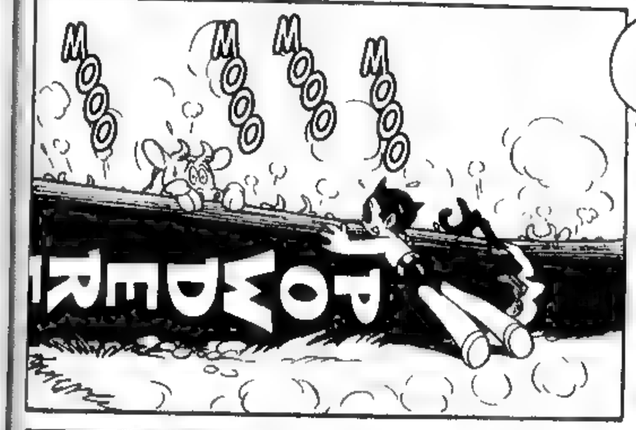

I GET IT... THE LIZARD'S TRYING TO LURE THE COWS TO THE SWAMP...
MOOO
MOOO


LOADED MILK

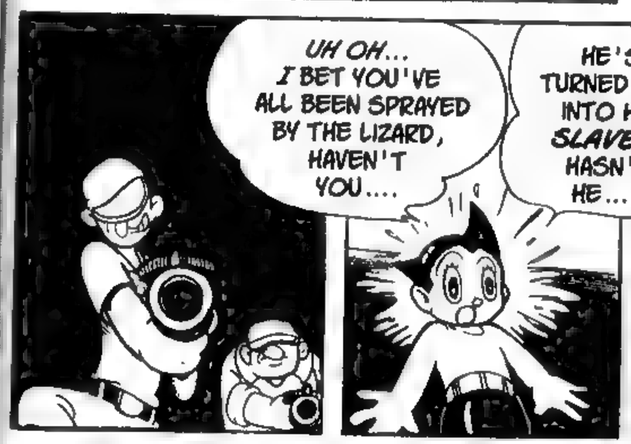

SNAP



'N MOOO!
KA
THUD


MOOO
MOOO
MOOO
MOOO
REDROP

HI, EVERY-BODY...
PONG


UH OH... I BET YOU'VE ALL BEEN SPRAYED BY THE LIZARD, HAVEN'T YOU....
HE'S TURNED YOU INTO HIS SLAVES, HASN'T HE...?

WE'LL SMASH HIM GOOD WITH THIS *BULLDOZER*... *HEH HEH HEH*... AFTER ALL, HE'S MADE OF *PLASTIC*, RIGHT?

COBALT! HELP ME!!

BLAST IT... I SHOULD'VE KNOWN... BUT NOW I CAN'T *MOVE!*

WHA P! ASTRO MUST BE CALLING ME!!

HERE I COME, ASTRO!

RUMBLE RUMBLE

THANK HEAVENS, COBALT... YOU MADE IT...

WATCH OUT FOR THE MAG GUNS, COBALT!

DON'T WORRY, ASTRO... WE'LL BE OUT OF RANGE RIGHT AWAY...

WE SHOULD GO BACK TO THE PROFESSOR'S LAB AND HAVE YOUR VACUUM TUBES CHANGED...

MAYBE I SHOULD GIVE YOU SOME OF MY ENERGY...

NO, IF I REST A MINUTE, I'LL BE FINE...

LOOK, COBALT!

THESE ARE *COW SKEL-ETONS!*

THOSE LIZARDS EAT MEAT! THEY SPRAY A LIQUID ON PEOPLE AND ANIMALS, TURN THEM INTO SLAVES, AND THEN *EAT* THEM!!

THEY SURE EAT A *LOT*...

YEAH... 'CUZ THE LIZARDS ARE INCREASING IN *NUMBER!*

LISTEN, COBALT... THIS IS A REAL *CRISIS!* UNLESS THE HUMANS DO SOMETHING, THE LIZARDS'LL TAKE OVER THE *WORLD!*

!

WE'VE GOTTA CATCH ONE OF 'EM, COBALT, AND FIND OUTWHAT SORT OF POISON THEY'RE SPRAYING!

GOT-CHA!

WATCH OUT, 'CUZ ALL THE HUMANS 'ROUND HERE'VE BEEN TURNED INTO *SLAVES*...

RIGHT...

LOOK... THE SWAMP WAS S'POSED TO BE *DRAINED*, BUT IT'S BEEN FILLED UP WITH WATER AGAIN...

WE'VE GOTTA HURRY...

SHLIP

SURE IS DARK...

DON'T TURN YOUR LIGHTS ON, COBALT... THE LIZARDS'LL SPOT US!

VOOSH

VOOSH

ASTRO! *LOOK!*

THESE LIZARDS ARE *MAN-EATERS!* WE'VE GOTTA TEACH 'EM A *LESSON!!*

ASTRO! LOOK AT ALL THESE *EGGS!!*

CRUSH 'EM!

SSHHAA

IT'S THE *MOTHER LIZARD*, ASTRO!

DON'T KILL IT, COBALT! WE NEED THE POISON!

HERE WE GO!

SPOOSH

HOW MANY TIMES TO I HAVE TO TELL YOU BEFORE YOU BELIEVE ME?!

IT'S TOO FAR OUT, OCHAN-OMIZU!

NO MATTER HOW ADVANCED THE LIZARDS ARE... THE IDEA THAT THEY'RE DELIBERATELY USING POISONS IS SIMPLY...

NOW, MY OPINION IS...

THIS IS JUST LIKE A *MANGA!*

YEAH! LIKE ONE THAT ARTIST *TEZUKA* MIGHT DRAW!

NOW, MY OPINION IS...

BASICALLY, THE ENGINEERS AT MIDORO HAVE ALL BEEN ADDLED BY HEAT STROKE! *THAT'S* WHAT IT IS!

NOW, MY OPINION IS...

LEMME SPEAK!

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME, GENTLEMENT, I'VE BROUGHT SOME *REAL* PROOF!

HERE'S SOME BRAND NEW EVIDENCE ASTRO AND HIS BROTHER'VE JUST BROUGHT BACK *ALIVE* FROM THE SWAMP!

YIKES!

EGADS!

YOW!

AS I MENTIONED EARLIER, GENTLEMEN, THIS IS A HIGHLY *INTELLIGENT* LIZARD!

BECAUSE OF THE STRUCTURE OF ITS TONGUE, IT CAN SPEAK HUMAN LANGUAGE!!

YOU HAVE ANYTHING TO SAY?!

ARE... YOU... GOING... TO... KILL... ME... TO... EXAMINE... ME...?

NOPE... WE'RE JUST GOING TO EXTRACT SOME OF YOUR POISON ...

SHA... SHA... SHA... I'LL... NEVER... LET... YOU... LEARN... THE... SECRET... OF... MY... POISON...

NOW I'M REALLY, *REALLY* ANGRY!! THIS LIZARD'S MAKING A *FOOL* OUT OF ME!!

I'LL FIND OUT THE SECRET OF THE POISON, 'N MAKE SURE YOU MONSTERS ARE *EXTERMINATED!*

GENTLEMEN! I'M SURE YOU UNDERSTAND HOW *SERIOUS* THIS IS! I NEED YOUR HELP TO CONQUER THE LIZARDS!

BE CAREFUL, OCHANOMIZU... IF IT SPRAYS YOU, YOU'RE A GONER...

IN A PREVIOUS ERA, THESE LIZARDS DOMINATED THE WORLD WITH THEIR POISON, JUST LIKE HUMANS DID LATER WITH FIRE...

WE HEARD YOU CAUGHT A LIZARD THAT CAN TALK, AND WE'D LIKE TO SEE IT...

SORRY, I CAN'T LET YOU...

WHAT?! NEWSPAPER REPORTERS GOT WIND OF THIS?!

WOW! WHAT A *SCOOP* THIS'LL BE!

NO WAY HE CAN TALK! HE'S GOT A *MUZZLE* ON!

HERE, LET'S TAKE IT OFF...

SAY SOMETHING, PAL...

SSHHAA

ECK E...

SSHHAA

CREAK

WHAT THE--?! ♪ACK!♪

SSHHAA!

ASTRO! ♪ARGH!♪

OH, NO...

I KNOW... I'VE GOT TO USE *FIRE* TO DRIVE THE LIZARD OFF!

IF HE'S GONNA COME AT ME WITH *POISON*...

I'LL USE A HUMAN WEAPON -- *FIRE!*

IF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE IS TAKEN OVER BY THE LIZARD AND ITS SLAVES, IT'S ALL OVER...

VOOOSH

VOOSH

C'MON OUT, LIZARD!!

IT'S SO HOT, HE'LL PROB'LY START FRYING AND JUMP INTO THE POOL...

HERE HE COMES!

WA... TER...

I KNOW YOU'RE FEELING TERRIBLE... YOU'RE DRYING UP...

HELP... WA... TER...

BEFORE I PUT YOU IN THE WATER, I'VE GOT SOME WORK FOR YOU TO DO...

JUST DO AS I SAY... CALL MIDORO SWAMP AN' TELL ALL THE LIZARDS TO GATHER TOGETHER AND HEAD FOR THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE!

...THEN I'LL PUT YOU IN THE POOL.

♪HMPH♪... HE DIED AS SOON AS HE FINISHED THE CALL...

OKAY, LIZARDS, IT'S *AMBUSH TIME!*

...AND POISON DOESN'T WORK ON *ME!!*

HERE THEY COME!

WAIT A MINUTE?! WHAT'S *THAT?!*

IS THAT *ROBOT* ON THE SIDE OF YOU LIZARDS?!

SINCE OUR POISON DOESN'T WORK ON YOU, WE'RE GOING TO GET RID OF YOU WITH THIS THING!

WE HAD OUR HUMAN SLAVES MAKE HIM!

SSSHHHHAAAAA

YIKES!

IT *VAPORIZED* THE TREES AND THE GRASS!

IT USES *ANTI-PROTON RAYS!!*

AND THEY WERE *BANNED* BY THE UNITED NATIONS FOR USE IN WEAPONS!

SSHHA SSHHAA SSHHAA! HUMANS MAY HAVE BANNED THEM, BUT NOT LIZARDS!!

UH OH...

IT'S GOING AFTER SOME *HOUSES!*

VOOOSH

YOU *ASTRO BOY?*

LISTEN, I NEED YOU TO CONTACT THE *POLICE STATION* AND TELL THEM TO GET THE *ROBOT SELF-DEFENSE FORCES* OUT HERE, WITH *ELECTRO-MAG WEAPONS!*

I'M COUNTING ON YOU...

VOOSH

UGH

THEY'RE HEADED TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, WITH THE *ROBOT* IN THE LEAD!

FOUR OR FIVE BATALLIONS OF DEFENSE FORCES ARE HERE!

LOOK!

FIRE, MEN! *FIRE!*

BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM BAM

DA DA DA DA DA DA

SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU SHU

SSHHAAA

COBALT! I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE WITH THEM!

THAT ROBOT'S SCARY, ASTRO! IS THAT AN ANTI-PROTON RAY?

IT WIPES OUT HUMANS AND PLANTS, AND EVEN THE GROUND, IN A FLASH...

WE'VE GOTTA HAVE THE TROOPS *DISPERSE* TO MINIMIZE CASUALTIES!

SSHHHAA

SSHHHAA

MARTIAL LAW HAS BEEN DECLARED THROUGHOUT TOKYO! AS MENTIONED IN THE PREVIOUS NEWS BROADCAST...

...A HUGE HERD OF *POISONOUS LIZARDS* IS STEADILY CONVERGING ON THE CITY!

...THE LIZARDS INTEND TO SPRAY HUMANS WITH THEIR POISON AND TURN HUMANITY INTO THEIR *SLAVES!*

CITIZENS ARE ADVISED TO EVACUATE THE CITY AND REMAIN *BRAVE!*

18 BATTALIONS OF ROBOTS ARE CURRENTLY COMBATTING THE LIZARDS!

NO BEGGING ALLOWED
NO URINATING IN PUBLIC
NO READING OF THIS ROMANIZED TEXT!

CREAK

THE REGION FROM HIKAWA TO OUME HAS SUSTAINED HORRIBLE DAMAGE...

THOSE BLASTED LIZARDS!! *GET 'EM!!*

SNIFF

SCREAMING WON'T HELP, TAMAO! WE'VE GOTTA *EVACUATE!*

THE MEN AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE HAD NO IDEA HOW POISONOUS THE LIZARDS ARE...

THEY WERE TURNED INTO SLAVES IMMEDIATELY...

BUT THE POISON DOESN'T WORK ON ROBOTS, RIGHT?

RIGHT, BUT THE LIZARDS ARE USING *ANTI-PROTON RAYS* NOW!

INSPECTOR NAKAMURA!! WHAT'S HAPPENING?!

THE SITUATION'S GETTING STEADILY *WORSE*, MUSTACHIO!

WHAT'S THIS?! LOOKS LIKE THE SURFACE OF THE *MOON*!

THEY'RE PARTS OF THE CITY THAT'VE BEEN HIT BY ANTI-PROTON RAYS!

HOLD YOUR GROUND, MEN! WE'VE GOT TO STOP THE LIZARDS FROM COMING INTO THE CITY, EVEN IF WE HAVE TO MOBILIZE ALL ROBOTS!

VOOOSH VOOOSH VOOOSH VOOOSH

SSSHHHAAA

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS... WE'RE DOWN TO A QUARTER OF OUR FORCES!!

ISN'T THERE ANYTHING WE CAN DO, ASTRO?

IF ONLY THERE WAS SOME WAY TO SMASH THAT *FIRING DEVICE* IN HIS MOUTH...

I'VE GOT AN IDEA, COBALT! IF IT DOESN'T WORK, YOU TAKE OVER!

GET HIM FROM BEHIND, ASTRO!

GOT-CHA!

GA-GA-GA

ZAA!

GET HIM, ASTRO!

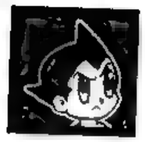
YOU EVIL ROBOT! TURN *THIS* ON YOURSELF!

THE NOZZLE'S AIMED AT *YOU* NOW...

KABBBOOM

IT *WORKED!!*

THEY ALL DIED OFF AT ONCE...
SO THE POISON CAME FROM THEIR TONGUES...
EGADS, THESE ARE DEADLY...
ASTRO BOY SAVED US...
BOY, I'LL SAY. WITHOUT ASTRO, THE LIZARDS WOULD'VE TAKEN OVER THE WORLD!!
AH, BUT ULTIMATELY, HUMANS WON...
THIS ONE LIZARD'S STILL ALIVE, TEACHER, AND HE'S SAYING SOMETHING...
WE... HAVE... ALL... BEEN... DESTROYED...
BUT JUST AS WE HAVE BEEN DEFEATED BY YOU, SO, TOO, SHALL YOU HUMANS BE DESTROYED SOMEDAY BY SOMETHING IN ANOTHER AGE...
THE LIZARD'S RIGHT. WE'LL PROBABLY BE DESTROYED ONE DAY, TOO...
THE MIDORO SWAMP INCIDENT MAY SIMPLY HAVE BEEN A PRELUDE OF THINGS TO COME...



ROBIO AND ROBIETTE

First serialized from May to September 1965 in *Shonen* magazine.

KNOCK KNOCK

HI. I'M *PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU* OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...

I'M HERE TO SEE *OHNO YANI*...

COMING...

SLAM

FWAP

FWT

THIS IS HIGHLY *INSULTING*, PROFESSOR!

HOW *DARE* YOU TELL ME NOT TO MAKE ROBOTS!?

I ONLY CAME HERE TO WARN YOU, DR. YANI!

YOU THINK ONE OF MY ROBOTS *KILLED* SOMEONE? THAT IT SMASHED INTO A BUILDING?!

IF YOU'VE GOT ANY PROOF, *SHOW IT!*

IF YOU ACT LIKE THAT, DR. YANI, IT'S HARD FOR ME TO DISCUSS THIS...

LET ME REMIND YOU, PRO-FES-SOR...

...THAT EVER SINCE THE TIME OF SAGARU YANI...

...THE YANI FAMILY HAS BEEN DOING IMPORTANT RESEARCH IN AUTOMATA AND ROBOTS!

WE DON'T MAKE ROBOTS THAT CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR HUMANS!

BUT THE ROBOTS YOU MAKE TEND TO *ATTACK* A CERTAIN TYPE OF OTHER ROBOT!!

ROBOTS FIGHTING ROBOTS? ♪HMPH♪...

WHAT'S WRONG WITH *THAT?*

IT'S JUST *WRONG!*

ROBOTS ARE LIKE PEOPLE! IT'S A CRIME!

JUST TO MAKE SURE, YANI...

...LET ME SEE YOUR LABORATORY.

VERY WELL, BUT IT'S PERFECTLY *NORMAL...*

HONK

ROBI-ETTE!

THIS ROBOT'S MY ULTIMATE WORK OF ART -- AND I LOVE HER LIKE MY OWN *DAUGHTER...*

WELCOME...

TAKE THE PROFESSOR TO THE LAB, ROBIETTE...

YES, FATHER...

♪HMPH♪... WHAT AN OLD-FASHIONED ROBOT STUDIO... HE CAN REALLY MAKE *ADVANCED ROBOTS* HERE?

YES, I WAS BORN HERE...

IT'S SO DARK AND DAMP... HARDLY MODERN AT ALL...

THE ROBOTS THEMSELVES ARE VERY IMPRESSIVE, THOUGH...

WHAT'S THIS?!

WHAT THE--?!

SLAM

WHA?!

WHAT'S GOING ON?!

UH OH... QUICK! YOU MUST *LEAVE!*

KATHUNK

SCREECH

BAM SLAM

I KNOW THAT VOICE! IT'S *URAN!*

≷ *WAAH!* ≶ LET ME *GO!*

ASTRO! HELP ME!

I'LL HELP YOU, URAN!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?! WHAT'S HAPPENING!?

PRO-FES-SOR OCHAN-OMIZU!

WHAT'VE YOU BEEN BEEN DOING TO URAN? WHY'D YOU BRING HER HERE?!

THEY STOLE MY ENERGY, PROFES-SOR...

TELL ME WHAT'S GOING ON, ROBIETTE! WHY'D YOU DO THIS TO URAN?!

THIS SORT OF VIOLENCE WON'T STAND, ROBIETTE! AND IF IT DOESN'T STOP, I'LL TELL THE *POLICE!!* I'LL...

WHAT?

... I'LL HAVE YOU ARRESTED UNDER THE ANTI-VIOLENCE LAWS! WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY?

WHAT'S GOING ON?! THAT ROBOT'S SUPPOSED TO BE SMASHED!

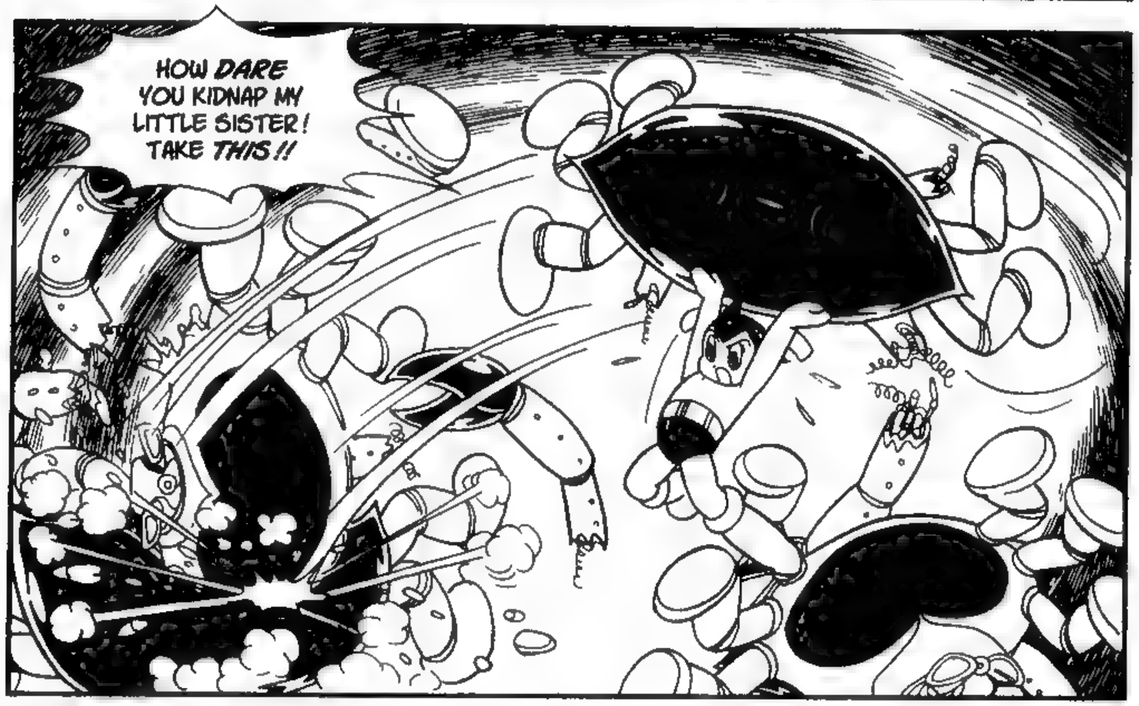
UH OH... ANOTHER WEIRDO...

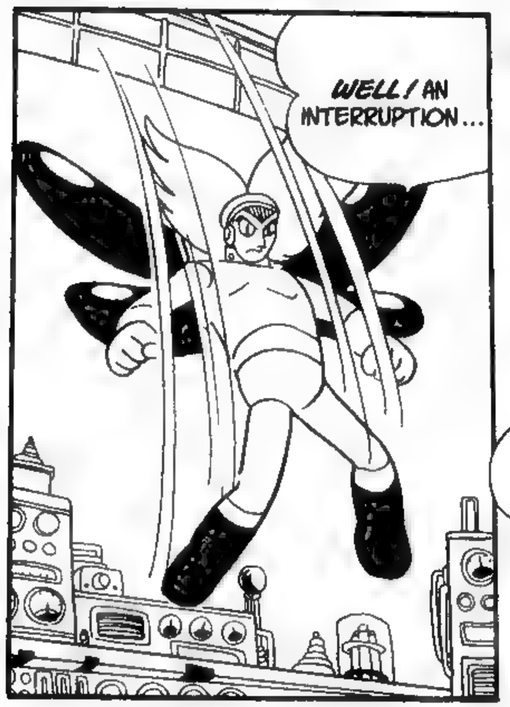
GET THEM!

YIKES!

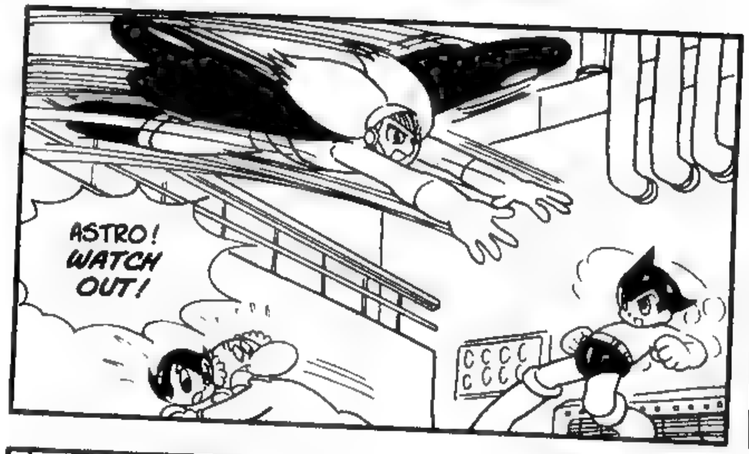
STOP!!

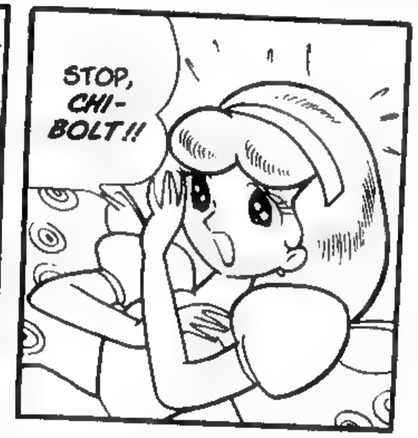
HELP ME, ASTRO!! HELP!

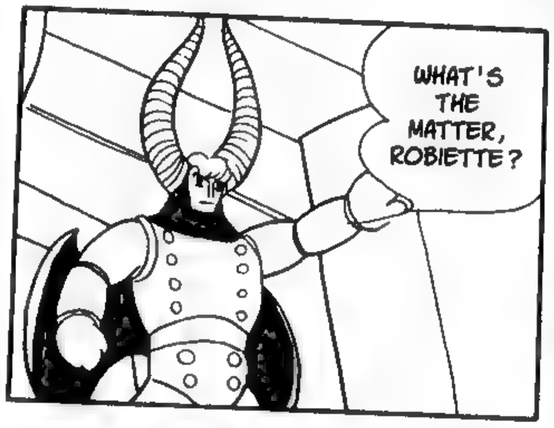

HOW DARE YOU KIDNAP MY LITTLE SISTER! TAKE THIS!!

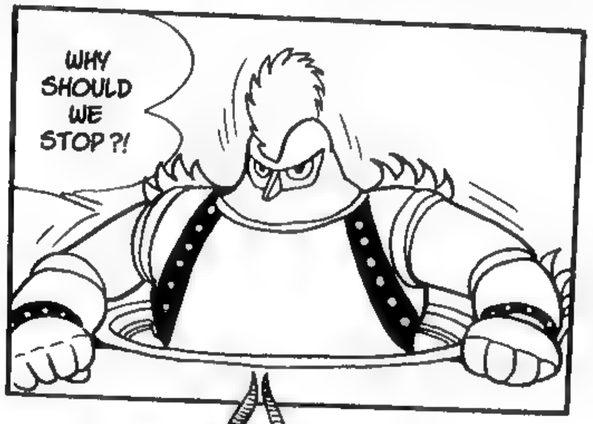

WELL! AN INTERRUPTION...

SO YOU'RE ASTRO BOY... THE ROBOT MADE AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE! I'VE HEARD OF YOU!
A WORTHY OPPONENT FOR ME! PREPARE TO FIGHT!!


ASTRO! WATCH OUT!

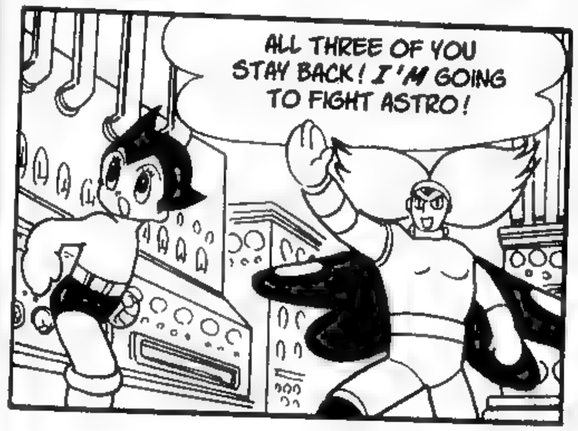

STOP, CHI-BOLT!!

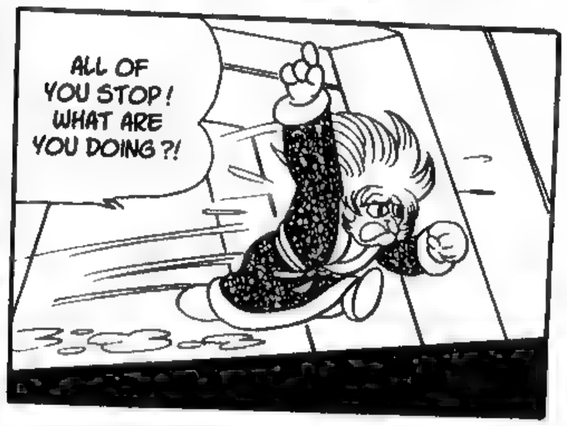

WHAT'S THE MATTER, ROBIETTE?


WHY SHOULD WE STOP?!

WHAT'S GOING ON, ROBI-ETTE?!

SO YOU'RE THE ONE THEY CALL ASTRO BOY...
WHA?!


ALL THREE OF YOU STAY BACK! I'M GOING TO FIGHT ASTRO!


ALL OF YOU STOP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!

WHAT'S GOING ON!? STOP THIS FIGHTING!

MY SONS! *WHY* HAVE YOU TAKEN ON *ASTRO BOY?!*

FATHER! THAT GIRL HE'S PROTECTING IS PART OF THE *IJIO* FAMILY!

YOU IDIOT!

YOU'RE MAKING A *MIS-TAKE!*

HER NAME'S *URAN!* SHE'S ASTRO BOY'S LITTLE SISTER, OF *NO RELATION* TO THE IJIO FAMILY!

YOU BOYS'VE BROUGHT SHAME ON ME!!

GET OUT OF HERE! *ALL* OF YOU!

WE'LL MEET AGAIN, ASTRO! MY NAME'S CHIBOLT. DON'T FORGET!

.....
.....

I'M SO SORRY ABOUT THIS...

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU...

HAR-UMPH!...

I'LL TRY TO MAKE IT UP TO YOU SOMEHOW...

THIS IS *EXACTLY* WHAT I WAS TALKING ABOUT! YOUR ROBOTS'VE ATTACKED OTHER ROBOTS, FOR *NO REASON AT ALL!*

WELL?! WHAT HAVE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOUR-SELF?!

OKAY, URAN... TELL US HOW YOU WERE KIDNAPPED!

IT WAS RIGHT AFTER DINNER... I WAS INVITED SOME-PLACE, 'N THEN THAT BIG CRAB GUY CAME ALONG...

SEE, YANI? YOUR ROBOTS MISTOOK URAN FOR A MEMBER OF THE IJIO FAMILY AND *KIDNAPPED* HER!

WELL, YANI? WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO SAY?

.....
.....

I KNOW YOU HATE MR. IJIO. BUT YOUR FEELINGS HAVE TRANSFERRED TO YOUR ROBOTS. THEY'RE CAUSING TROUBLE AS A RESULT!

ASTRO, TAKE YOUR SISTER HOME, OKAY...?

SURE, BUT...

WAIT!

I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT WITH DR. YANI...

OKAY...

WHA?! WHO'S CALLING ME?!

I'VE BEEN SEARCHING FOR YOU! I HEARD THAT URAN WAS KIDNAPPED BY SOME WEIRD ROBOTS...

URAN'S A FRIEND OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER... THERE WAS A PARTY AT MY HOUSE TODAY, AND WE HAD INVITED HER, BUT SHE WAS KIDNAPPED ALONG THE WAY...

SO *THAT'S* WHAT HAPPENED...

LET ME INTRODUCE MYSELF... I'M *ROBIO*...

THANKS FOR WORRYING ABOUT HER, ROBIO...

THINK NOTHING OF IT, ASTRO...

I'M SORRY I INVOLVED URAN IN A FEUD...

A FEUD? WHAT SORT?!

I'D BE EMBARRASSED TO TELL YOU...

NO, TELL US...

I WAS MADE BY *DR. ORNERY NJO*, AT HIS PLACE. HE'S A ROBOT SCIENTIST...

ZZAPP BZZZT

BEEP BEEP BEEP

I HEREBY NAME YOU *ROBIO!*

I'M YOUR SURROGATE FATHER-- *NJO*, ORNERY NJO!

YESSIR...

HI...

THESE ARE YOUR OLDER BROTHERS, *ROD* AND *DRILL*... 'N OVER THERE'S LITTLE *PIRO*, WHO ISN'T EVEN BORN YET...

YO...

HI, GUYS...

"WE BECAME FRIENDS RIGHT AWAY, AND WENT OUT FOR A WALK..."

"IT WAS A PEACEFUL, BEAUTIFUL DAY. WE WERE HAVING A GREAT TIME..."

"BUT THEN ..."

"... SOMETHING *AWFUL* HAPPENED..."

WHAT THE--?!

BASH

DRILL! WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!

LISTEN, ROBIO... ONE THING ABOUT US IS THAT WHEN WE SEE A CERTAIN TYPE OF ROBOT, WE JUST FEEL LIKE WE HAVE TO *FIGHT* IT!

I DON'T KNOW... YOU'D BETTER ASK OUR FATHER...

B-BUT WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO ACT VIOLENTLY!

I KNOW ... BUT WE CAN'T STOP ...

B-BUT *WHY?*

AND YOU'LL BE THE SAME, ROBIO! THERE'S NOTHING WE CAN DO ABOUT IT! IT'S THE WAY WE'RE MADE!!

SO JUST MAKE SURE YOU NEVER GET NEAR ANY OTHER ROBOTS, EXCEPT THOSE OF OUR FAMILY! UNDER-STAND?

...UH... SURE...

SO YOU SEE, ASTRO ... OUR ENEMIES ...

... ARE ALL THE ROBOTS MADE BY OHNO YANI!

LISTEN, YANI... YOUR ROBOTS AND THOSE MADE BY ORNERY IJIO'RE LIKE BLOOD ENEMIES...

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING, THERE'LL BE A *DISASTER!*

YOU'VE GOT TO KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR ROBOTS, YANI, AND MAKE SURE THIS SORT OF THING NEVER HAPPENS AGAIN!

AND OF COURSE I'LL TELL IJIO THE SAME THING!

AND FINALLY, AS THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN...

...I'LL HAVE *BOTH* OF YOU *ARRESTED!!*

SEE YOU LATER!

LEAVING ALREADY, SIR?

ZOOOM

HMPH...

FATHER!

FATHER SHMATHER!

BRING EVERYONE HERE!

WHAT IS IT, FATHER?

OX, MOSQUITO, LIVER, CHIBOLT, AND ROBIETTE! LISTEN, YOU *MUSTN'T* FIGHT WITH ANY OTHER ROBOTS, *UNDERSTAND?!*

B-BUT...

NO IFS, ANDS, OR BUTS! I KNOW YOU GUYS WANT TO FIGHT IJIO'S ROBOTS WHENEVER YOU SEE THEM...

...BUT THAT'S NOT WHY I MADE YOU!!

YOU UNGRATEFUL CHILDREN ARE CAUSING ME, YOUR CREATOR, NOTHING BUT *TROUBLE* RIGHT NOW!

FATHER, DON'T BE SO UPSET... YOU NEED TO REST...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS...

READ MY LIPS, ROBIETTE! BRING ME SOME TEA!

RIGHT AWAY, SIR...

AHH, YOUR FRESH BREWED TEA ALWAYS HITS THE SPOT...

MY ROBOTS ARE THE BEST IN THE WORLD, SO I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY'RE CAUSING ALL THESE *PROBLEMS!*

I KNOW... NEXT TIME I OUGHTA MAKE A CAR, NOT A *ROBOT!*

I BET I'D FEEL A LOT BETTER, RIDING IN A SUPER-FAST SPORTS CAR!!

HELP ME OUT, CHIBOLT!

YES-SIR...

BZZZT

RATTLE RATTLE

FLICK

I ALWAYS FEEL GREAT WHEN I'M BUILDING SOMETHING!

CREAK

MEANWHILE, AT THE IJIO PLACE...

ROBIO!

WHAT IS IT, FATHER?!

I'VE GOT A BIG JOB FOR YOU, ROBIO! I NEED YOUR HELP!

ARE YOU GOING TO MAKE ANOTHER BROTHER FOR ME?

NOPE. THIS TIME I'M NOT MAKING A ROBOT. IT'S A *SPORTS CAR!*

WOW! THAT'S *GREAT!*

I'VE HEARD THAT YANI'S MAKING ONE, TOO, AND I CAN'T AFFORD TO LET HIM BEAT ME!

GOSH, WE CAN RACE *TWO* NEW CARS!

JUST WAIT, I'LL SHOW THAT OL' YANI. I'LL BUILD THE BEST CAR IN *ALL JAPAN!*

POIK POIK POIK

BZZZT

KA CHUNK KA CHUNK KA CHUNK KA CHUNK

BAM BAM

R'RRRING

'ELLO... IJIO HERE...

WHAT?! YANI? WHAT THE --?!

I MEAN, GOSH, SURE IS NICE WEATHER... TOMORROW, TOO, *HUH*... DUNNO 'BOUT THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW, THOUGH...

DID OCHANOMIZU VISIT YOUR PLACE, TOO, DR. YANI? REALLY? WELL, HE CAME HERE, TOO...

HE SAID WE WERE *SWORN ENEMIES*... EVER HEAR OF SUCH NONSENSE?!

BY THE WAY, I'VE HEARD YOU'RE MAKING A *SPORTS CAR*...

SO YOU'VE HEARD ALREADY, *EH?* WELL, IT'S TRUE. I *AM* MAKING ONE, THE *BEST* IN *ALL JAPAN!*

WELL, THAT'S INTERESTING, BUT WITH *ALL DUE RESPECT*, OUR CAR'LL GO EVEN FASTER THAN YOURS!

HOW CAN *YOU* POSSIBLY SAY THAT, SIR, WHEN YOU DON'T KNOW HOW FAST *MINE'LL* GO!!

BASICALLY, BECAUSE WHATEVER I MAKE IS *ALWAYS* BETTER THAN YOURS!

WITH *ALL DUE RESPECT*, YOU MUST BE WRONG! YOU MUST ADMIT THAT *MY* INVENTIONS ARE *ALWAYS* THE BEST IN ALL JAPAN...

BEST, SHMEST!! EVERYTHING YOU MAKE IS *JUNK!!* JUNKY OL' *JUNK!*

"JUNK?" HOW DARE YOU SAY THAT! LISTEN, IJIO, I SAW SOME OF YOUR STUFF ON SALE FOR *TEN YEN* AT A *CARNIVAL BOOTH!*

BZZZZ ZZZZ BAM BAM BAM BAM BZZZAAAT AAAT

PYUU SCREEECH BZZZZAAAAAT BAM BAM BAM BAM

BINNGGG BONN NGGG

.....
.....

KABLAAM

GOLDANGGIT!

FWIP FWIP

JUST WAIT, YANI! YOU'LL GET YOUR JUST DESSERTS!

IN ONE HOUR, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE TEST RACE WILL BEGIN, PITTING THE ULTRA-HIGH-SPEED POWER-CARS MANUFACTURED BY MSSRS. OHNO YANI AND ORNERY NJIO!

DON'T LET ME DOWN, CHIBOLT! I NEED TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF NJIO!

JUST WATCH ME, SIR!

SEE YOU LATER, ROBI-ETTE!

THE CAR ENTERED BY MR. YANI IS THE REDLIGHT, PILOTED BY CHIBOLT!

YAY YAY YAY HOORAAAH YAY

WOW! JUST LOOK AT YANI'S CAR!

IT'LL WIN FOR SURE...

ASTRO, CAN I ASK YOU A FAVOR?

SURE, WHAT IS IT, ROBIO?

I DON'T WANT TO BE INVOLVED IN ANY FIGHTING...

YAY YAY YAY

BUT IF I ENTER THE RACE, I KNOW I'LL HAVE TO BATTLE MY OPPONENT...

YAY HOORAY YAY YAY

THIS RACE IS REALLY JUST TO SEE HOW WELL THE CARS PERFORM... SO COULD YOU BE THE DRIVER, INSTEAD OF ME?

WHAT?!

YOU'RE FATHER'LL GET REALLY ANGRY, ROBIO...

I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO HIM... I JUST NEED YOU TO HELP ME, ASTRO... PLEASE ...

I UNDER-STAND, ROBIO... I'LL DO IT...

THANKS, ASTRO ...

THIS HAS ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO OPERATE THE CAR... WITH YOUR *ELECTRO-BRAIN,* YOU CAN REMEMBER IT IN A MINUTE...

HMM... THIS IS PRETTY SIMPLE...

WHERE'D ASTRO DISAPPEAR TO?!

YEAH, JUST WHEN THE RACE'S ABOUT TO START...

HE PROB'LY WENT OUT TO BUY A DONUT!

WHA?

TELL ME, FRIEND, WHO IS THAT?

THAT'S *ROBIETTE,* CHIBOLT'S LITTLE SISTER!

OH, MY...

WHAT A LOVELY GIRL!!

HOW CAN THERE POSSIBLY BE SUCH A BEAUTIFUL CREATURE IN THE YANI FAMILY... PERHAPS MY ELECTRO-BRAIN HAS GONE *HAYWIRE!!*

BUT, NO! SUCH BEAUTY WOULD APPEAL TO ANY-ONE... SURELY, SHE MUST BE A ROBOT *ANGEL...*

THE RACE IS ABOUT TO START, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... MR. IJIO'S ENTRY IS THE *SILVER ARROW,* AND WE HAVE WORD OF A CHANGE IN THE DRIVER... YES, IT'S *ASTRO BOY!*

YAY YAY YAY

WHAT THE --P!!

WHAT THE --P!

GO FOR IT, ASTRO!!

YAH, ASTRO!

ROBIO! WHERE'S ROBIO?!

THE CARS HAVE ASSUMED THEIR POSITIONS AT THE STARTING LINE...

YAY YAY YAY

SO, WE MEET AGAIN, ASTRO BOY...

HI, CHIBOLT-SAN...

WHAT HAPPENED TO ROBIO? DID HE GET COLD FEET?

NO, BUT I TOOK HIS PLACE, AND I WON'T LOSE!

BOTH CARS MUST OBSERVE THE RULES! THE COURSE RUNS FROM TOKYO TO OSAKA CITY! IF EITHER CAR HAS A TRAFFIC ACCIDENT OR VIOLATES THE RULES, IT WILL BE DISQUALIFIED! AND NO COURSE CHANGES ARE ALLOWED!

READY, SET...

CHIK CHIK CHIK CHIK

HEY! WHO DO YA THINK'LL WIN?! I BET THE MOST POWERFUL ONE'LL WIN!!

♪ SHH! ♪

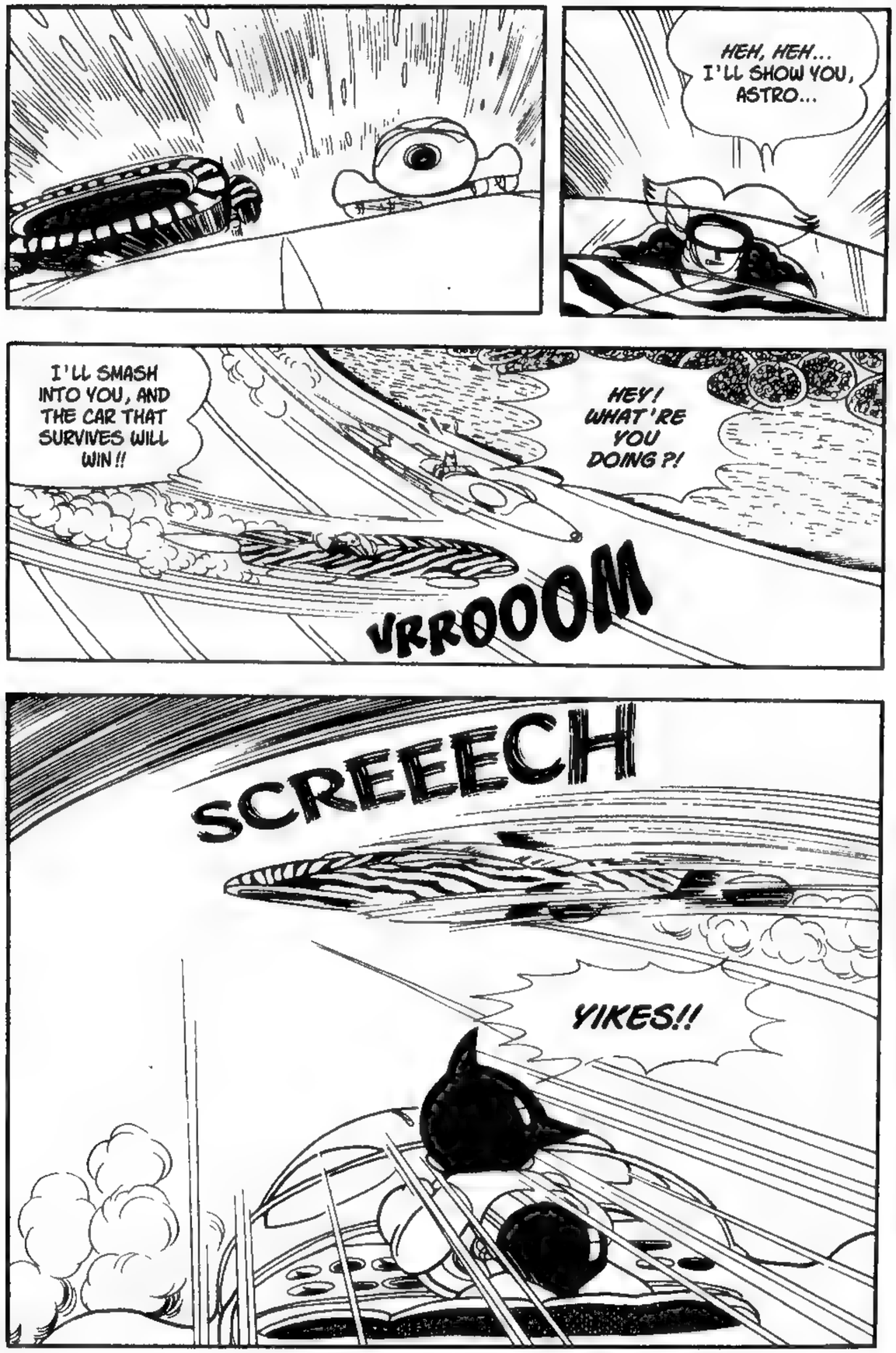
BLAM

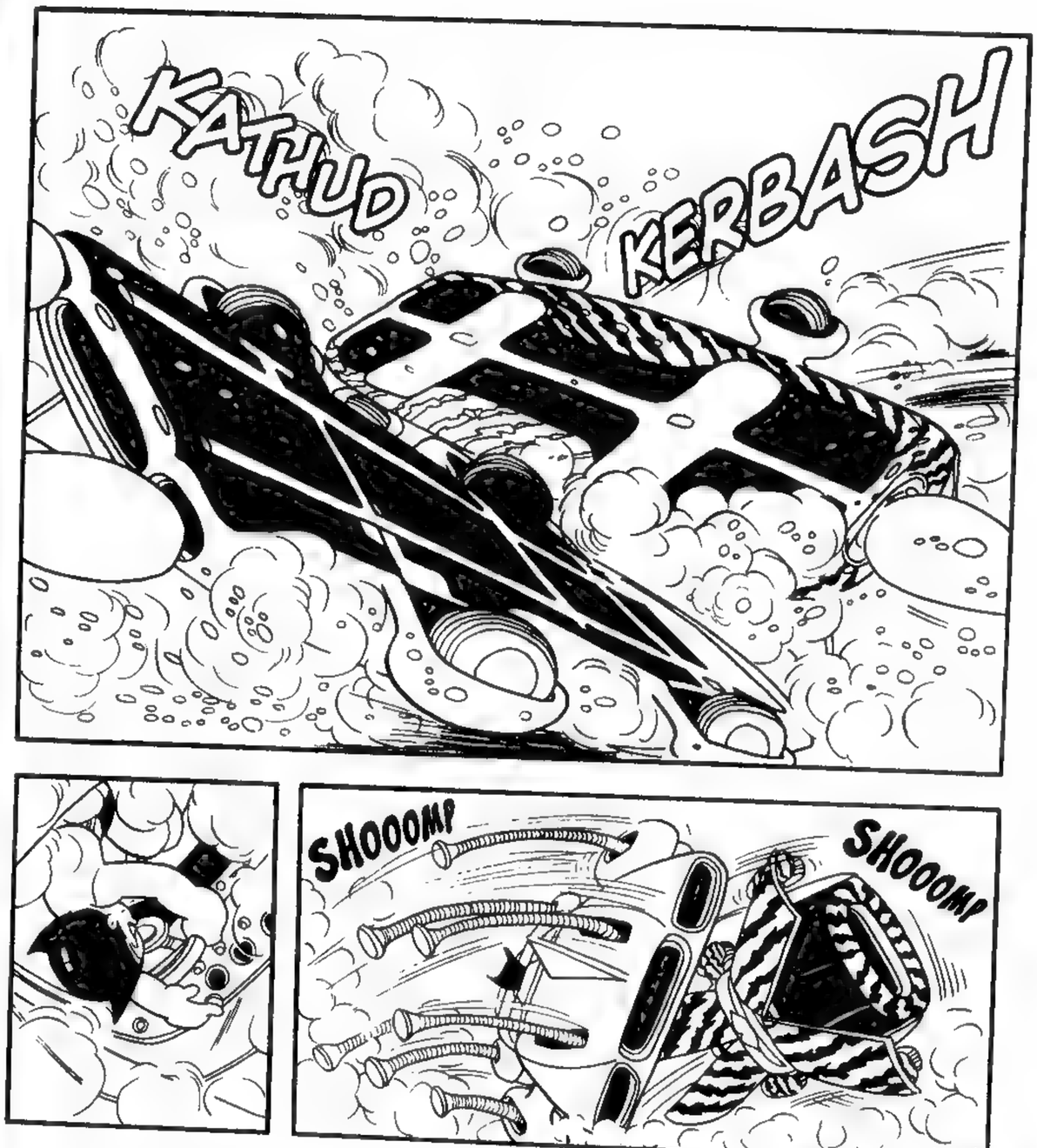
ROOOOOAR

ROOAAR

BOTH CARS HAVE CLEARED THE RACEWAY ARCHES AND ARE NECK AND NECK! BOTH ARE SHOWING FANTASTIC PERFORMANCE! NO WAY TO TELL WHICH'LL BE THE WINNER YET!

VROOOOM


HEH, HEH... I'LL SHOW YOU, ASTRO...
I'LL SMASH INTO YOU, AND THE CAR THAT SURVIVES WILL WIN!!
HEY! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!
VRROOOM
SCREEECH
YIKES!!


KATHUD
KERBASH
SHOOOM!
SHOOOM!
NOT A SCRATCH ON EITHER OF US!
THAT WAS A TIE!!
VRRRAAAAAAM

VRO OOM
SNAP
SNAP
CRASH
YIKES!
UP, UP, 'N AWAY!
NEXT, AN *AIRBORNE* COURSE... WELL, I WON'T LOSE THIS, EITHER, CHIBOLT!
VROOOM
ROOAAR
HE SURE IS *PER-SISTENT!*
YOU'RE GONNA MEET SOME REAL TURBULENCE, CHIBOLT!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? GOT COLD FEET? THIS IS OUR COURSE!

FLASH
RUMBLE RUMBLE
VOOOSH
BLAST IT! MY ENGINE'S *ICING OVER!*
JUST WHEN I THOUGHT EVERY-THING WAS GOING FLAWLESSLY...
AT THIS RATE, ASTRO'LL *OVERTAKE* ME...
I'LL HAVE TO TRY SOME-THING ELSE...
I'LL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE WIND...
FWIP
HE'LL NEVER FIGURE THIS OUT... HE'LL NEVER KNOW!

HEY, CHIBOLT! YOU'RE CARRYING YOUR OWN CAR ON YOUR WINGS!

RATS!

RATATATAT

YOU CAN'T GET AWAY, CHIBOLT! I *SAW* YOU CHEATING!

RUMBLE

CRACK

YIKES! IT'S A LIGHTNING STRIKE!

ZAAAP ZAAP ZAAP

UH OH...!

CRACK

WE'RE HERE AT THE OSAKA INTERCHANGE, THE FINISH LINE FOR THE ULTRA-HIGH-SPEED POWER-CAR RACE! ONE OF THE CARS HAS JUST PASSED IKOMASANJO!

ROAR

THEY'RE HEADED STRAIGHT FOR OSAKA! THE OTHER CAR'S STILL NOT IN SIGHT...

ALL RIGHT !!

IT'S *MY* CAR! THE *RED* LIGHT!

YAY YAY YAY HOORAY HOORAY

YAY YAY YAY YAY YAY

WA-WA-WAY TO GO, MR. CHIBOLT! YOU *WIN!*

WHAT HAP-PENED TO ASTRO !?

FWAP FWAP FWAP FWAP

HERE! OVER HERE !!

YOU STALLED OUT HERE ?!

WHAT HAPPENED, ASTRO ?

I WAS CAUGHT IN A *LIGHTNING STORM!* MY ENGINE *STOP-PED!*

♪GRR♪... BLAST IT! MY *SILVER ARROW!!*

YAY YAY YAY YAY YAY YAY

♪GRRRR♪... I CAN'T *STAND* IT !!

I *LOST!* MY CAR LOST TO OHNO YANI'S *RED LIGHT!* I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! *OH NO!!!!!*

SERVES YOU RIGHT, ORNERY IJIO! IT'S 'CUZ YOU'RE ALWAYS TOO *STUB-BORN!* HEH HEH HEH!

YAY YAY

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO WIN! THIS CAR IS ACTUALLY *BROKEN!*

WHAAAT?!

CHIBOLT, YOU IDIOT! SHUT UP! *YOU WON!!*

DURING A STORM, MY ENGINE STOPPED, AND I USED A COWARDLY TRICK TO CONTINUE...

I USED MY OWN WINGS, AND CARRIED THE CAR!

IF I HADN'T DONE THAT, THE *RED LIGHT* WOULD HAVE CRASHED, JUST LIKE THE *SILVER ARROW* DID...

AND ASTRO BOY *SAW* ME USE MY WINGS...

HE EVEN PUNCHED A COUPLE HOLES IN MY WINGS AS PROOF...

RIGHT HERE...

HE SHOT ME WITH HIS MACHINE GUN...

B-BUT WHY'RE YOU CONFESSING THIS NOW?

'CAUSE I DON'T LIKE CHEAT-ING...

GENTLEMEN, I CANNOT ACCEPT THIS TROPHY...

CHIBOLT! YOU *NUMBSKULL!* KEEP YOUR MOUTH *SHUT!*

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT WE'D REALLY SHOWN IVIO A THING OR TWO!

I HEARD YOU CONFESS-ED...

ASTRO!

IT WAS REALLY A DRAW THIS TIME, ASTRO, BUT NEXT TIME I'LL WIN!

WELL, I'D BE HAPPY TO TAKE YOU ON ANY TIME!

VRRROM

ROBIO, ROBIO? WHERE ARE YOU?!

MEANWHILE, AT IVIO'S PLACE...

SO *THIS* IS WHERE YOU'VE BEEN! I WANT A *WORD* WITH YOU!

WHY'D YOU HAVE ASTRO TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE RACE?!

FATHER, *PLEASE* ...

IF I WERE THE DRIVER, CHIBOLT AND I WOULD FIGHT, AND ONE OF US WOULD DIE!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH DYING IN A BATTLE WITH A SWORN ENEMY? YOU *CHICKEN?*

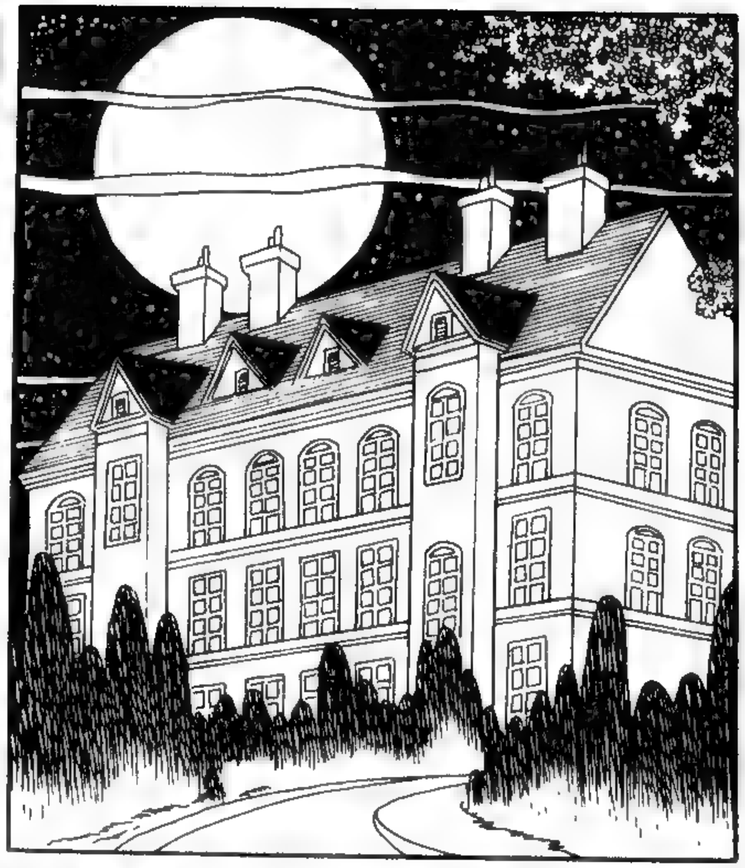
LISTEN, FATHER... THE YANI FAMILY ISN'T MY SWOWN ENEMY! I DON'T HATE THEM AT ALL...

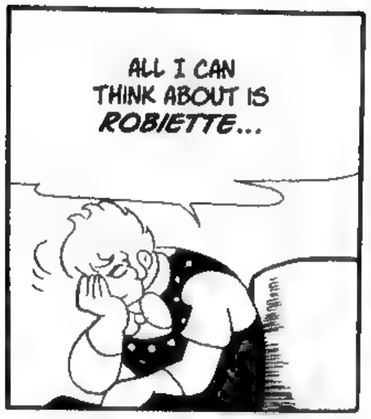
I DON'T WANT TO BE PART OF ANY SENSELESS FEUD WHERE WE ROBOTS JUST HURT EACH OTHER...

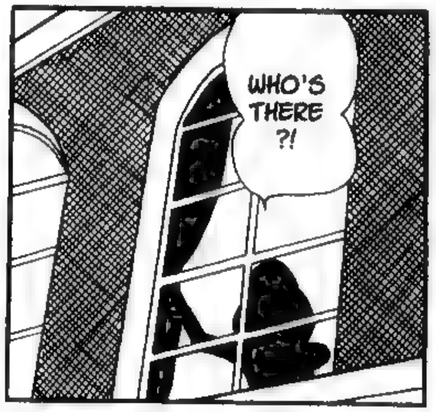
SAY THAT ONE MORE TIME, ROBIO, AND I'LL TURN YOU INTO *SCRAP!!*

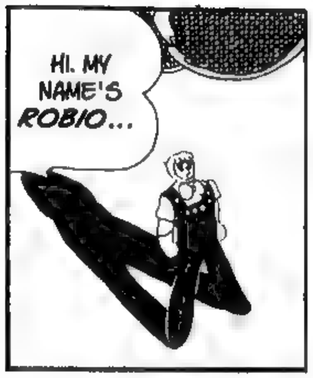
WHOOOPS!

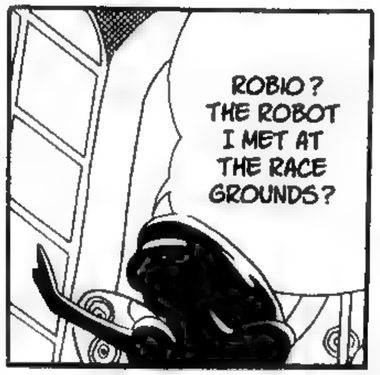
SLIP CRASH BAM BAM THUD




ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT IS ROBIETTE...

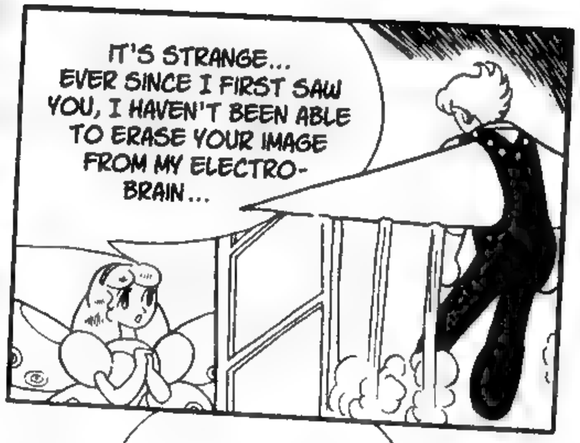

WHO'S THERE ?!


HI. MY NAME'S ROBIO...

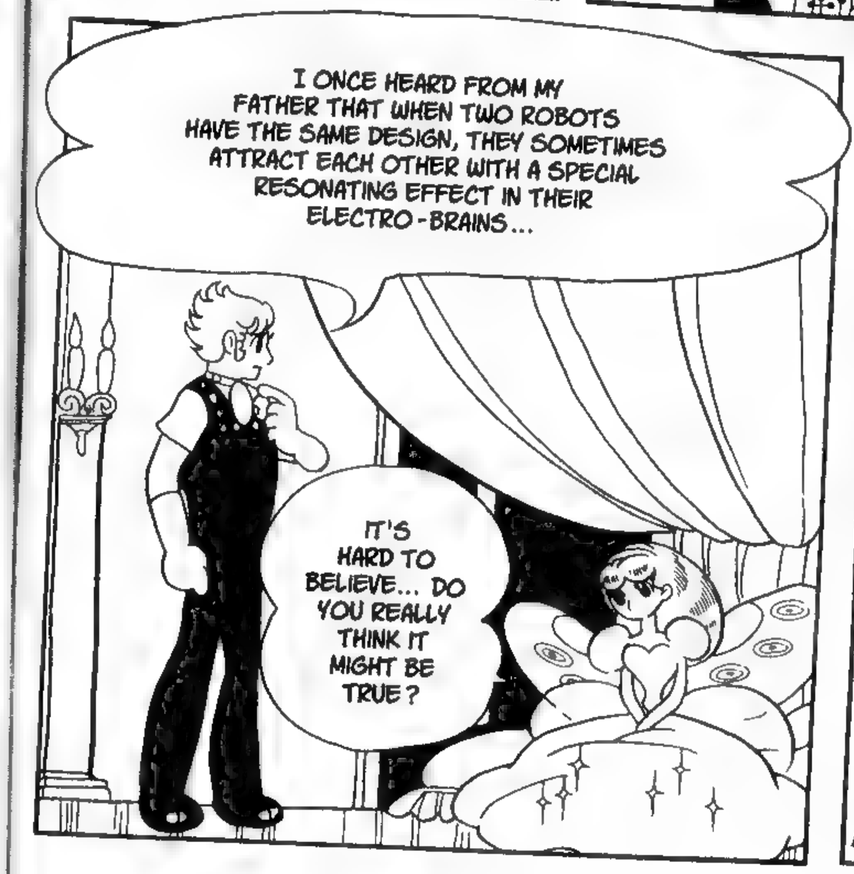

ROBIO? THE ROBOT I MET AT THE RACE GROUNDS?

YES... I CAME TO SEE YOU... I WANT TO TALK TO YOU...

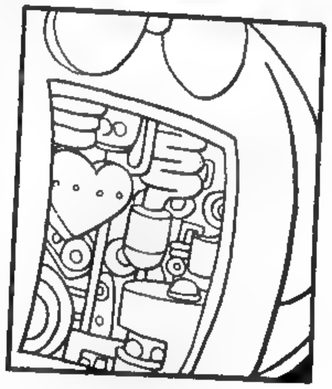
B-BUT YOU'RE FROM THE NJO FAMILY, AREN'T YOU...? YOU MUSTN'T COME HERE! IF MY BROTHERS SEE YOU, THERE'LL BE TROUBLE!


IT'S STRANGE... EVER SINCE I FIRST SAW YOU, I HAVEN'T BEEN ABLE TO ERASE YOUR IMAGE FROM MY ELECTRO-BRAIN...

MAYBE OUR BODIES HAVE THE SAME CONSTRUCTION...
MY GOOD-NESS...


I ONCE HEARD FROM MY FATHER THAT WHEN TWO ROBOTS HAVE THE SAME DESIGN, THEY SOMETIMES ATTRACT EACH OTHER WITH A SPECIAL RESONATING EFFECT IN THEIR ELECTRO-BRAINS...
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE... DO YOU REALLY THINK IT MIGHT BE TRUE?

CHAK



LOOK! WE'RE THE *SAME!!* WE HAVE IDENTICAL DESIGNS!

BUT WE WERE MADE BY TOTALLY DIFFERENT PEOPLE...

IT MUST BE AN *AMAZING COINCI-DENCE...*

WE'RE ALMOST LIKE BROTHER AND SISTER...

THE FIRST TIME I MET YOU, I FELT WE WERE DESTINED TO BE TOGETHER FOREVER, ROBIETTE...

BUT IT'S SO SAD... HERE WE ARE, BUT OUR FAMILIES ARE STILL *SWORN ENEMIES !!*

ROBIETTE!

WHO'S THAT WITH YOU?!!

YOU'RE *ROBIO*, FROM THE *IJIO* FAMILY, AREN'T YOU?!! WHAT ARE YOU DOING, SNEAKING INTO MY SISTER'S ROOM LIKE THIS!? PLANNING ON *SMASHING* HER?!

NO, CHIBOLT... *NO...!*

OUT OF THE WAY, ROBIETTE... I'M NOT LETTING HIM GET AWAY WITH THIS...

OX! MOSQUITO! LIVER! C'MERE!

HEH HEH HEH... WEL L, ROBIO... WHO DO YOU WANT TO TAKE ON?!

STOP, CHIBOLT! STOP!!

PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MAKER, ROBIO!

WAIT... I DIDN'T COME HERE TO FIGHT! YOU'VE GOT TO *LISTEN* TO ME, *PLEASE...*

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS, ROBIO... MY HORNS'LL PENETRATE YOUR CHEST IN A *FLASH*...

YIKES!

MY AIM WAS OFF, BUT NOT NEXT TIME, ROBIO...

STOP!!

OUT OF THE WAY! THIS IS NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS!

IF YOU DON'T STOP THIS, I'LL REPORT YOU TO *PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU!*

SCRAM, ASTRO!

IT *IS* MY BUSI-NESS!

SHWWIPP

IF YOU REFUSE TO STOP...

TAKE *THIS!!*

NOW YOU'VE *REALLY* GONE TOO FAR, ASTRO! I'LL BURY BOTH YOU *AND* ROBIO!

KATHUDD

YOU'RE ALL CRAZY!!

SWOOOSH

I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING!

OH, ARTIFICIAL RAIN-MAKER! BRING RAIN *NOW!*

ROBIO! ASTRO! RUN FOR IT! *NOW!*

VOOSH VOOSH VOOSH

THANK HEAVENS FOR ROBIETTE!

THEY'LL COME AFTER US, BUT I'LL TAKE 'EM ON!

THANKS, ASTRO...

I'LL SHOW YOU HOW THESE SPEARS WORK, ASTRO!

WHO'S AFRAID OF AN OLD *SPEAR* ?!

SWISSH

FIRST SPEAR!!

OWW!!

WOW... IT TOOK MY WHOLE *ARM* OFF!!

SECOND SPEAR!!

YIKES!!

WOOOSH

ZIP

SWOOSH

UH OH...

SLAM

ONE MORE TO COME, ASTRO! IT'S FOR THE *COUP DE GRACE*, RIGHT IN YOUR CHEST!

WONDER WHICH IS FASTER... HIS SPEAR, OR ME CHARGING AT HIM...

IF I'M JUST 0.1 SECONDS FASTER, I WIN...

HERE GOES NOTHING...

CLENCH

FLASH

AIEEE!

VOOOSH

BZZZZT BZZZZT

KABAAM

UNGH!
...

PITTER

PATTER

SPLASH

WHEEEE

WHEEEE

WHEEEE

ARREST 'EM BOTH!

WHEEE

WHEE

WHEEE

WHEE

RRRINGGG

'ELLO... OCHAN-OMIZU HERE... WHA?

ASTRO'S BEEN *ARRESTED?!* WHY?! WHAT? I'LL BE RIGHT THERE...

SORRY TO DRAG YOU OUT OF BED SO LATE, PROFESSOR...

FORGET THE APOLOGIES... JUST TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED...

ASTRO! CHIBOLT!! WHAT'S GOING ON?!

THESE TWO WERE BATTLING IT OUT IN THE SKY OVER TOKYO'S HONGO WARD, PROFESSOR, TOSSING AROUND THESE SPEARS! HOUSES WERE DAMAGED AND SLEEPING RESIDENTS WERE INJURED!

DID YOU REALLY INJURE SOMEONE, ASTRO?

YES-SIR...

BUT I'M THE ONE WHO REALLY THREW THE SPEARS! ASTRO'S NOT TO BLAME...

TWO ROBOTS WERE NONETHELESS BATTLING IT OUT IN TOKYO AT NIGHT! YOU GUYS'RE NO BETTER THAN *YAKUZA THUGS!*

ASTRO... WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR ARM?!

YOU POOR BOY... WHAT A FIGHT IT MUST'VE BEEN...

LET THEM BOTH GO... I'LL BE THEIR GUARANTOR!

VERY WELL, THEN. BUT LET ME WARN YOU, PROFESSOR ...

...IF I HEAR OF ANY MORE ROBOT VIOLENCE IN THIS CITY, WHETHER IT'S ASTRO OR ANY OTHER ROBOT, THEY'RE GOING STRAIGHT TO *JAIL!*

MIND MY WORDS, ASTRO!!

VOOSH

I'M SORRY, PROFESSOR...

CHIBOLT! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?!

I'M GOING HOME...

WHY DON'T YOU COME WITH US... I'LL REPAIR YOU AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...

NO, I'D FEEL BETTER IF I WERE REPAIRED AT HOME...

B-BUT *WHY?!*

BECAUSE YOU MIGHT *MODIFY* ME IN SOME WAY AT THE *MINISTRY!!*

CHIBOLT!! YOU'RE INSULTING THE MINISTRY!!

BONK

CHIBOLT... YOU OKAY?

LEAVE ME ALONE, ASTRO!!

LET ME AT LEAST TAKE YOU HOME, CHIBOLT...

I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP! I CAN MAKE IT ON MY OWN!

NO, YOU CAN'T... IN YOUR CONDITION, YOU'LL SHORT OUT!

TELL ME, CHIBOLT... HOW COME YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS...

...HATE ROBIO SO MUCH?

ROBIO?! *HMPH&*... THE ROBOTS AT IJIO'S PLACE ARE *ALL* MY ENEMIES!

BUT *WHY?!*

WHY?! HOW SHOULD I KNOW!? THEY JUST *ARE!* THEY'RE MY *SWORN ENEMIES!*

CHI-BOLT...

YOU KNOW WHAT? I THINK YANI DESIGNED YOU AND YOUR BROTHERS TO HATE THE IJIO FAMILY. YOUR ELECTRO-BRAINS WERE SET THAT WAY!

YOU'RE SAYING MY FATHER DELIBERATELY MADE ME INTO A *BAD* ROBOT?!

YOU'RE CRITICIZING MY *FATHER?!*

LISTEN, CHIBOLT... THINK ABOUT IT! IJIO'S A *HUMAN*, AND HUMANS HAVE *FAULTS*, RIGHT?!

IF YOU HAD YOUR ELECTRO-BRAIN REPAIRED, YOU COULD BE *FRIENDS* WITH ROBIO AND HIS FAMILY!

SHADDUP, ASTRO...

PHOMP

SEE? I TOLD YOU THAT YOU WERE GOING TO BLOW A FUSE...

CHI-BOLT!!

I'LL LET YOU LOOK AFTER HIM, ROBI-ETTE...

HEH HEH...

TRAMP TRAMP

TRAMP TRAMP

BLZZZZT

KATHUD

WHO WAS THAT?!

VOOSH

SMASH

BZZZAP

WHAT THE--?!

FSSSST

♫ LA DE DA DE LA LA LA... ♪

IS ASTRO HOME, MADAM?

DID HE HAPPEN TO GO ANYWHERE LAST NIGHT?

I'M ASKING BECAUSE LAST NIGHT TWO OF MR. IJIO'S ROBOTS WERE ***DESTROYED***, BOTH OF THEM ROBIO'S OLDER ***BROTHERS!***

AND THAT'S NOT ALL...

ACCORDING TO A WITNESS, THE PERSON WHO KILLED THE TWO ROBOTS IS...

...ASTRO BOY!!

WHAT?!

B-BUT THAT'S *CRAZY!* I WAS ASLEEP ALL NIGHT LONG LAST NIGHT IN THE ROOM UPSTAIRS...

AH, BUT ASTRO... YOU SOMETIMES FLY OUT THE WINDOW IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT, RIGHT?

SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYING DOESN'T MAKE LEGAL EVIDENCE!

I WANT YOU TO COME TO THE POLICE STATION WITH ME...

YOU CAN TRY'N EXPLAIN YOUSELF *THERE!*

WHAT'S GOING ON?

MADAM, I REGRET TO INFORM YOU THAT YOUR SON'S A *SUSPECT!*

I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D DO SUCH A THING, ASTRO...

I WARNED YOU BEFORE, ASTRO!

WHEEE

ASTRO!

ROBIO!

AND I *DIDN'T* DO IT...

ASTRO, I HEARD YOU DESTROYED TWO OF MY BROTHERS! HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?

I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!

YOU ALSO THINK I DID IT, ROBIO?

YOU MEAN YOU *DIDN'T* DO IT, ASTRO?

RIGHT. THIS IS ALL A HORRIBLE MISTAKE!

BUT SOMEONE SAW YOUR FORM, ASTRO!

SOME-BODY'S TRYING TO *FRAME* ME. IT'S AN *IMPOS-TER!*

HMM... AN IMPOSTER, *EH...?* BUT WHO WOULD HATE YOU ENOUGH TO DO *THAT?!*

I DON'T KNOW...

I KNOW! IT'S GOT TO BE *CHIBOLT!* HE CAN'T STAND THE SIGHT OF YOU!

I'LL TEACH THAT CHIBOLT A THING OR TWO!

YOU STAY HERE, ASTRO! I'LL MAKE HIM FESS UP!

B-BUT ROBIO!

WAIT! CHIBOLT ISN'T SUCH A BAD ROBOT... *REALLY!*

To: Ornery Ijio Esq.

I challenge you to a duel to see who makes the best robots. The place is the Miho seashore. Time is

ROBI-ETTE! MAIL THIS LETTER FOR ME, OKAY?

YES-SIR!

CHIBOLT! YOU'RE NOT COMPLETELY REPAIRED YET, SO I DON'T WANT YOU WANDERING AROUND OUTSIDE...

WHA P!

WHAT'S THIS...?

WHAT A STRANGE THING TO FIND IN FATHER'S DESK...

FATHER, WHAT IS THIS?!

IT LOOKS LIKE AN ASTRO BOY *MASK!* WHY'D YOU MAKE SUCH A THING?!

UH, THAT...? I...*ER*... JUST MADE IT FOR A *GAG*...

FATHER! DID YOU DO SOMETHING LAST NIGHT WITH THIS ON?!

I BET YOU SMASHED IJIO'S ROBOTS, ROD AND DRILL, DIDN'T YOU?!

BUT WHY'D YOU PRETEND YOU WERE *ASTRO* P!

LISTEN, CHIBOLT... ASTRO'S RESPONSIBLE FOR WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU! I JUST GOT REVENGE BY SETTING HIM UP, THAT'S ALL!

NO, FATHER! YOU'VE DONE A *TERRIBLE, COWARDLY THING!*

I AM *SO ASHAMED!* HAVE YOU NO SENSE OF WHAT YOU HAVE *DONE* P!

HOW *DARE* YOU TALK LIKE THAT TO ME?!

YOU STAY OUT OF THIS, CHIBOLT! YOU DON'T KNOW *ANYTHING* ABOUT THE WAYS OF HUMANS!

BLAST IT...!

STOP! WHERE'RE YOU GOING, CHIBOLT!? YOU MUSTN'T TAKE THAT!!

CHIBOLT! YOU COWARDLY JUNKSTER ROBOT!

YOU MUST BE *ROBIO!*

HOW *DARE* YOU CALL ME A JUNK-STER?!

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO KILLED MY BROTHERS THE OTHER NIGHT, AREN'T YOU?!

YOU'RE A *COWARD,* CHIBOLT!

I'M GOING TO AVENGE MY BROTHERS' DEATHS!

ROBIO! I'LL TEACH YOU NOT TO TALK OF ME THAT WAY...

HERE I COME!

HERE I COME!

SMASH

FLUTTER

I DID IT! I AVENGED MY BRO-THERS' DEATHS!

THAT'LL TEACH YOU A LESSON, CHIBOLT! *WAIT*... WHAT'S THAT?!

OH, MY GOSH!

THIS MASK LOOKS JUST LIKE *ASTRO BOY!*

I... I FOUND IT THIS MORNING... IN OUR LABORATORY...

MY FATHER, OHNO YANI, IS THE ONE WHO WORE IT... I... I CONFIRMED IT...

WHAT?! YOU MEAN *YOU* DIDN'T IMPERSONATE ASTRO AND SMASH MY BROTHERS?!

HA HA! HOW IN THE WORLD COULD I HAVE WORN THAT CRUDE A MASK?! IT'S GOT HOLES IN THE NOSE, FOR A *HUMAN* TO BREATHE THROUGH!

I WAS IN THE PROCESS OF TAKING THIS TO THE POLICE! TO PROVE ASTRO'S *INNOCENCE!*

B-BUT WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL ME ABOUT THIS EARLIER, CHIBOLT?

HELP ME GET UP! TAKE ME TO THE POLICE...

HANG IN THERE ...

CAN YOU REALLY ACCUSE YOUR FATHER OF BEING THE ONE WHO DID IT?!

ASTRO TAUGHT ME LAST NIGHT...

...THAT IT'S THE RESPONSIBILITY OF *ALL* ROBOTS TO REPORT WRONGDOING, EVEN IF IT'S THE WORK OF THOSE WHO MADE US, EVEN OUR PARENTS...

INSPECTOR NAKAMURA?

I'M *CHIBOLT*, OF THE YANI FAMILY... ASTRO'S NOT THE GUILTY ONE... IT WAS SOMEONE *IMPERSONATING* HIM...

IT WAS ACTUALLY MY FATHER, *OHNO YANI!* AND HERE'S THE *PROOF!*

STAND BACK, ALL OF YOU! MY *END* HAS COME!

KABOOOM

CHIBOLT! I DIDN'T REALIZE IT, BUT YOU WERE A GREAT ROBOT!

OKAY, MEN! ARREST OHNO YANI! I'LL APOLOGIZE TO ASTRO!

AH... OH, NO! OH, NO! NOT *OHNO* YANI!

'SCUSE ME...

ASTRO... *ER...* TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

YOU WEREN'T THE GUILTY ONE... YOU'RE *INNOCENT!*

WE *APOLOGIZE!*

WHAT?! OHNO YANI'S *GONE?!* WHERE'D HE GO? HOW'D HE GET AWAY?!

I'VE GOTTA *FIND* HIM! ASTRO, I NEED YOU TO HELP ME!

LET'S GO, ROBIO!

I'LL SEARCH THE HILLS! YOU TAKE THE SEASIDE!

WILL DO, ASTRO!

THAT'S HIS TRUCK THERE!

DR. YANI! DR. YANI!

WHA?! WHO'S THAT?!

UH OH! IT'S ASTRO BOY!

BLAST IT! HE'S LOCATED ME!

DR. YANI! WHY'D YOU IMPERSONATE ME AND SMASH THOSE TWO ROBOTS!?

THE POLICE ARE LOOKING FOR YOU! YOU'VE GOT TO TURN BACK!

DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!

WHY SHOULD I DO ANYTHING YOU SAY?!

YOU'RE A COWARD, DR. YANI!

ME?! A COWARD?!

I KNOW YOU WERE TRYING TO SNEAK AWAY!

SHADDUP! I'M ON MY WAY TO A DUEL! WITH NJO!!

HERE I GO!

VOOOSH

YANI

OKAY, MOSQUITO! GO DRIVE OFF ASTRO! SMASH HIM IF YOU WANT!

YES SIR!

WHOOPS!

WHA?! SUDDENLY, YOU'RE TINY! LIKE A REAL MOSQUITO!

HA HA HA! MY BODY'S UNUSUAL THAT WAY...

SO, ASTRO BOY... WHERE AM I NOW? CAN YOU SEE?

I'M RIGHT NEXT TO YOU!

WHAT?!

TIME TO LAUNCH!

IT'S NO USE TRYING TO RUN AWAY, ASTRO BOY!

WHERE ARE YOU? *ANSWER* ME!

I'M HERE, ON YOUR *BACK!!*

WHAT?!

TIME TO INJECT A LITTLE *OXIDIZING AGENT!*

NO USE TRYING TO RESIST, ASTRO!

BLAST IT...

RATATATAT

YIKES!!

YOU NEARLY GOT ME ASTRO... BUT UNLESS SOMEONE COMES TO HELP YOU RIGHT AWAY, YOU'RE A *GONER*...

HAVE A NICE, *PERMANENT SLEEP!*

I FINISHED OFF ASTRO BOY...

WELL DONE, MOSQUITO!

BUT HE GOT YOU, DIDN'T HE... DON'T WORRY, I'LL MAKE YOU LIKE NEW RIGHT AWAY...

GOSH, I WONDER WHERE ASTRO IS?

ROBIETTE! HAND ME THE REPAIR BOX...

ROBIETTE... WHERE ARE YOU?

UH OH.. THAT'S ASTRO!!

WHAT'LL I DO? YOU'VE BEEN INJECTED WITH AN OXIDIZING AGENT BY MY BROTHER, MOSQUITO, HAVEN'T YOU?

HELP! SOMEBODY COME! HELP!

SCREEE

ROBIETTE!

ROBIO!

I KNOW YOU MUST HATE ME, ROBIETTE... I'M THE ONE WHO DESTROYED YOUR BROTHER, AFTER ALL...

I *AM* GRIEVING... BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE...

WHAT IS IT, ROBIO?

FORGIVE ME!! I... I'M THE ONE WHO SMASHED YOUR BROTHER, CHIBOLT!

KNOW WHAT I THINK, ROBIETTE? EVERYTHING'S *CRAZY*... THERE'S NO WAY ROBOTS LIKE US CAN LIVE IN HAPPINESS IN THIS CRAZY WORLD!

BUT *WE'RE* NOT CRAZY, ROBIO... IT'S THE *HUMANS* WHO ARE!

AS LONG AS HUMANS ACT SO CRAZILY, WE'RE DOOMED TO BEING UNHAPPY...

NO, ROBIETTE! I *KNOW* WE CAN BE HAPPY SOMEDAY, IF WE CAN JUST STOP OUR *FATHERS'* *FEUDING!*

BUT MY FATHER'S ON HIS WAY TO A DUEL RIGHT NOW, ROBIO... AT THE BEACH BY MIHO... AND *YOUR* *FATHER'S* HIS *OPPONENT!*

WHAT?! *REALLY?!*

WE'VE GOT TO HURRY AND STOP THEM, ROBIETTE!

THEY'RE BOTH SO STUBBORN, ROBIO...

BEFORE THAT, THOUGH, WE'VE GOT TO REPAIR *ASTRO!* I BROUGHT A REPAIR KIT!

YOU'RE RIGHT!

THINK YOU CAN FIX HIM? HE'S BADLY HURT...

I CAN REPAIR MOST ROBOTS...

BLAST IT... ASTRO'S BODY DESIGN IS TOO *COMPLICATED!*

I NEED YOU TO TAKE ASTRO TO THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE, ROBIETTE. I'LL GO TO THE SITE OF THE DUEL AT MIHO...

I'LL JOIN YOU LATER, ROBIO!

TAKE CARE OF ASTRO!

I'VE BEEN *WAITING* FOR YOU, YANI!

WELL HERE I *AM*, IJIO!

LISTEN, IJIO! FOR THE LONGEST TIME, YOU'VE *HUMILIATED* ME! SO NOW'S THE TIME TO SETTLE SCORES FOR *ONCE AND FOR ALL.*

THAT'S JUST WHAT *I* PLANNED TO SAY, YANI! I'M GONNA SHOW YOU FOR ONCE 'N FOR ALL WHO MAKES THE *BEST ROBOTS!*

TAKE A LOOK AT MY ROBOT *TEMJIN*, THEN... AND TREMBLE IN *FEAR!*

WHAT A STUPID-LOOKING PIECE OF *JUNK*, YANI! TAKE A LOOK AT *MY* ROBOT, INSTEAD!

KABASH

HERE HE IS-- *NOKKS!*

LISTEN, IJIO... AS WE AGREED, WE'LL HAVE OUR ROBOTS DUEL. THE LOSER HAS TO SURRENDER AND PROMISE NEVER AGAIN TO CHALLENGE THE OTHER...

VERY WELL, THEN, YANI... AND *YOUR* ROBOT'LL SURELY LOSE!

SHADDAP, IJIO!! I'LL HAVE YOU KOW-TOWING TO ME AND *APOLOGIZING* FOR THIS!

GO GET HIM, *TEMJIN!*

CHARGE, *NOKKS!*

VOOSH

KABASH

STOP!!

STOP! BOTH OF YOU!

IF YOU WON'T LISTEN...

VOOSH

FLASH

FSSSSHT

WHAT THE --P!

FSSSSHT

FSSSSHT

FSSSSHT

MY GOSH, HE *MELTED* NOKKS!!

ROBIO! YOU... YOU CRAZY *NUMB-SKULL!!* WHAT'D YOU DO THAT FOR?!

YOU *DESTROYED* MY *MASTERPIECE*, NOT TO MENTION YOUR VERY OWN *BROTHER!*

GWA HA HA...! LOOKS LIKE YOUR OWN FAMILY MEMBERS ACCIDENTALLY TURNED ON THEMSELVES, IJIO!!

ROBIO! TAKE ON YANI'S GIANT ROBOT INSTEAD OF NOKKS!

IT'S YOUR *PUNISHMENT* FOR HAVING DESTROYED NOKKS! NOW GO GET HIM...

WELL, WELL...SO *YOU'RE* THE SUBSTITUTE FOR NOKKS, EH?

GO GET HIM, TEMJIN!

GWAROO!

WHEN IT COMES TO THIS, I'VE NO CHOICE BUT TO *FIGHT!*

SQUEEEZE

HEY! LET GO, YOU BIG MONSTER! I'M YOUR OPPONENT, NOW!

...AS...

...TRO...

...BOY!

KERTHUDD

GWAROOO!

VOOOSH

VWISH

ALL RIGHT, YANI! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO CONTINUE THE DUEL WITH OUR *TRUCKS!*

YOU'RE *ON!*

ROAAR

STOP! STOP!

FATHER! PLEASE, *STOP! PLEASE!!*

I CAN'T *STAND* THIS ANYMORE!!

ROAAR

NO, ROBIETTE! IT'S TOO *DANGEROUS!*

ROBIETTE!

BRRAAAAM

SMASH

SMASH

ROBIO!

ROBIO!!

UH OH...!

R-ROBIO!!

ROBI-ETTE!!

≥WAAAAA!≤

≥WAAAH WAAAH BOO HOO!≤

WHEE WHEEEE

WELL, WELL... DRS. IJIO AND YANI... THE WORLD'S MOST LAME-BRAIN SCIENTISTS! TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

UNTIL THE VERY END, BOTH ROBIO AND ROBIETTE TRIED TO *STOP* YOU TWO... AND LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE TO BOTH OF *THEM*...

≥WAAAH WAAA-AHHH≤!

≥S-SOBB≤ ...

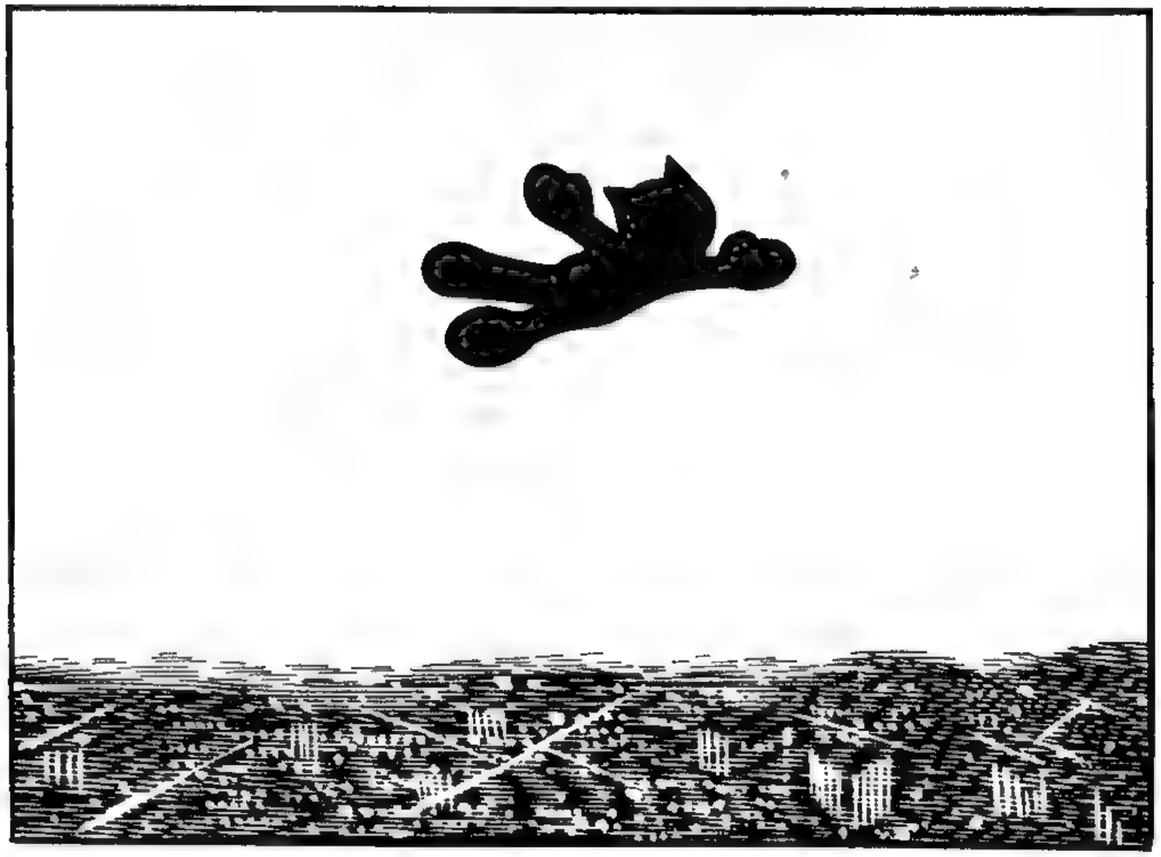
IJIO! I WAS SO THOUGHT-LESS...SO *ORNERY*... PLEASE FORGIVE ME... *FORGIVE ME*...

OHNO YANI... *OH, NO*... PLEASE FORGIVE *ME*... I DESERVE THE *WORST* PUNISHMENT...

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU! DR. IJIO! DR. YANI!
I HEAR SOME-THING...
WHA?! IT'S THE SOUND OF ROBIO AND ROBIETTE'S ARTIFICAL HEARTS!!
THEIR HEARTS ARE STILL BEATING!!
THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP THUMP
ROBIO AND ROBIETTE ARE NOW JOINED TOGETHER, AND WHILE THEIR BODIES MAY HAVE BEEN DESTROYED, THEIR HEARTS WILL BEAT FOREVER, AS ONE...
THUMP THUMP
THUMP THUMP

THE DEVIL'S BALLOONS

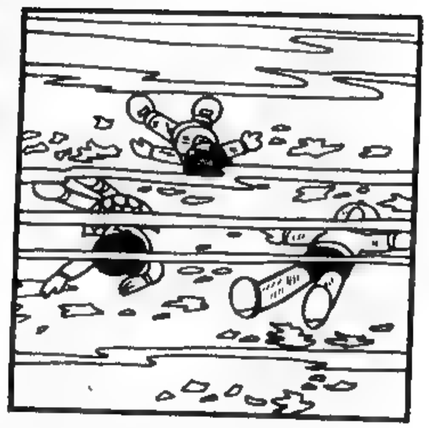
First serialized from December 1963 to February 1964 in the supplement editions of *Shonen* magazine.

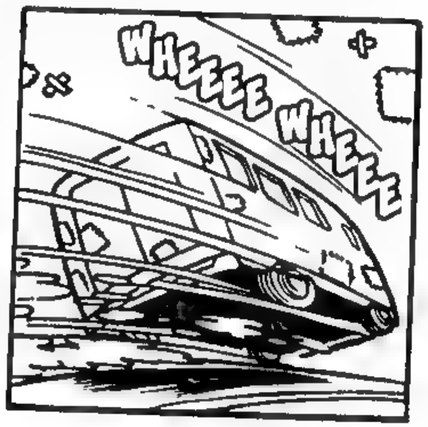


LOOK! IT'S ASTRO! ASTRO BOY!
ASTRO'S GONNA LAND HERE!
YAY, ASTRO!

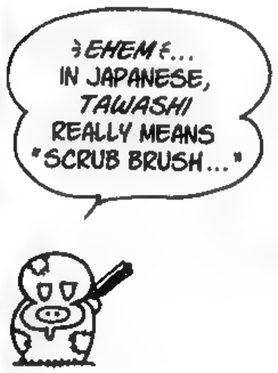
ASTRO BOY!
LET'S PLAY!!

KBOOM



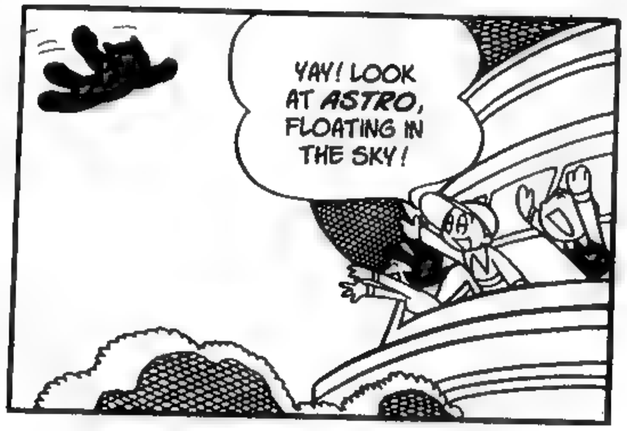

WHEEEE WHEEEE

ASTRO BOY BALLOON INJURES FOUR CHILDREN
NOVEMBER 7, 2015


EHEM... IN JAPANESE, TAWASHI REALLY MEANS "SCRUB BRUSH..."

WH-WH-WHAT'S GOING ON?!!

YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS INCIDENT, ASTRO?!!
I DON'T KNOW ANY-THING ABOUT IT, INSPECTOR TAWASHI!


YAY! LOOK AT ASTRO, FLOATING IN THE SKY!

EEEK!!

WHOMP

WHAT THE--?!

KA BOOOM

I'VE COME TO SEE HOW YOU KIDS'RE DOING...

EEEK!

DON'T COME NEAR ME!!

GO AWAY! I *HATE* YOU!!

B-BUT... I DIDN'T DO ANY-THING!

I'M S-*SCARED* !!

THE CHILDREN THINK YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF THEIR INJURIES, ASTRO... IT'S QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE, OF COURSE...

I *HATE* ASTRO BOY!!

RED CROSS HOSPITAL

SCRAM !!

ASTRO...

DON'T CRY, ASTRO... IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT!

B-BUT EVERY-ONE'S *AFRAID* OF ME...

I BET SOME-ONE'S DOING THIS TO GET *EVEN* WITH YOU...

BUT WHAT DO THEY HAVE AGAINST ME? I CAN'T LET THEM GET AWAY WITH THIS!! I'VE GOTTA FIND THE PEOPLE WHO LAUNCHED THOSE BALLOONS!

YOU'VE GOTTA BE BRAVE, ASTRO, AND FIGHT THE BAD GUYS!

I KNOW...

YAY YAY YAY YAY

BRRIIINGGG

WHAT?! ANOTHER BALLOON?! THIS TIME OVER SHIN-JUKU?!

AND IT'S SHAPED LIKE ASTRO BOY AGAIN?!

WE'VE GOT ANOTHER BALLOON SIGHTED, MEN! THIS TIME, WE'LL TAKE HELICOPTERS AND SHOOT IT DOWN! I'M GOING WITH YOU!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

HOW COME ALL THE POLICE 'COPTERS LOOK SO JUNKY?

PROB'LY BECAUSE THE ARTIST CAN'T DRAW WELL...

THERE IT IS!!

HURRY! SHOOT IT DOWN!

THERE'S TOO MUCH TURBU-LENCE... I CAN'T GET A GOOD AIM...

DON'T WORRY... JUST OPEN FIRE!

ZAP ZAP ZAP

ZAP ZAP ZAP

WHAT HAPPENED?! YOU MISSED!

IT'S TOO ROUGH, SIR! I CAN'T HIT IT UNLESS WE GET CLOSER!

IDIOT! IF WE DO THAT WE'LL BE BLOWN UP ALONG WITH THE BALLOON!

UH OH... THE WIND'S TAKING IT FURTHER AND FURTHER AWAY...

WE'VE GOT A PROBLEM...

INSPECTOR NAKAMURA TO TAWASHI! WHOEVER SENT UP THE BALLOON'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF A STRONG WIND, SO WE CAN'T KEEP UP! OVER!

WHAT?! CAN'T KEEP UP?! WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF THE THING SMASHES INTO A BUILDING?! OVER!

WELL, SEND UP SOME BETTER HELICOPTERS, THEN! OVER!

DON'T COMPLAIN! JUST SHOOT DOWN THE BALLOON! OVER!

COMPLAIN?! YOU'RE THE ONE COMPLAINING! AND I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF IT! OVER!

AWW... SHADDUP! OVER!!

YOU STUPID *NUMB-SKULL! OVER!*

SIR! THE WIND'S CHANGING DIRECTION!

SHWWOOOSH!

YOU STUPID *IMBECILE! OVER!*

THIS IS THE TV STATION HERE! THE ASTRO BOY BALLOON'S HEADED DIRECTLY *THIS WAY!*

THE TV TOWER?! *MOVE IT OUT OF THE WAY!!*

KRASH

GUESS IT HIT, DIDN'T IT...

NO... I FELL DOWN THE *LADDER...*

THE ASTRO BOY BALLOON'S SWOOSHING RIGHT BETWEEN THE BUILDINGS!

UH OH... THAT'S A *DEAD END STREET!*

YIKES! HE'S *BACKING UP!!*

KABOOOM!

WHEEE WHEEE WHEEE

LOOK! IT'S AN AMBULANCE!

THIS IS *SCARY...* THEY SAY IT WAS AN *ASTRO BOY* BALLOON!

HEAVEN FORBID!!!

LOOK! IT'S *ASTRO BOY!*

UH OH!

IT'S *ASTRO!!!*

RUN FOR IT!!

DON'T GET NEAR HIM!

TOUCH HIM 'N YOU'LL GET A *RASH!*

HE'LL SUCK YOUR *BLOOD!*

HAAALP!!

SCRAM, YOU FILTHY *DIRTBAG!*

MAKES ME *SICK* JUST TO LOOK AT YOU!

PROFES-SOR... I... I...

CHEER UP, ASTRO...

YOU POOR BOY... BUT DON'T WORRY, WE'LL EVENTUALLY FIND THE PERSON BEHIND THIS...

UNTIL THEN, YOU HAVE TO *BELIEVE* IN YOURSELF, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS!

ASTRO!

WHOEVER DID THIS TO YOU IS REALLY, REALLY *AWFUL!*

'N YOU'VE GOTTA *STOP* HIM!

HEY, LOOK! THERE'S ANOTHER ASTRO BOY BALLOON!

HEY, LOOK! LOOK!

WOOSH

IT'S ON THE WEST SIDE OF TOWN! WATCH OUT!

THERE IT IS!! NOW'S MY CHANCE!

GOTCHA!

PSSSSHHHT

?

?

WHA?! NOTHING BUT AIR!

PSSSHHHT

PSSSHHHT

IT'S JUST AN ORDINARY OL' BALLOON!

UH OH...

THERE IT IS! ANOTHER FLYING BOMB...

NO! WAIT! YOU'VE GOT IT ALL WRONG!!

I'M NOT THE BOMB! I JUST DEFLATED THE BALLOON BOMB! I'M THE *REAL* ASTRO!

YOU *IDIOTS!*

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

ZAP ZAP ZAP

I'LL MELT!!

ZAP ZAP ZAP ZAP

♪WHEW♪...

♪PUFF♪

♪PANT♪

HE'S FLED INTO THE CITY GOVERNMENT BUILDING...

THE GROUND FORCES'LL HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM NOW...

EEEK!

IT'S THE BOMB!!

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

GENTLEMEN...

CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP CLAP

THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR HOLDING THIS MEETING TO SUPPORT ME, YOUR CANDIDATE, BEANCAKE DAIFUKU!

I AM NOW DETERMINED...

...TO BECOME THE NEXT GOVERNOR OF TOKYO!

AND WHEN I DO...

... BE ASSURED, TOKYO WILL CHANGE DRAMATICALLY!

FIRST OF ALL, I'LL GET RID OF ALL THE ROBOTS!

TWENTY YEARS AGO I WAS A MERE FACTORY WORKER!

"I WORKED AS HARD AS I COULD..."

"BUT THEN ONE DAY *ROBOTS* WERE INTRODUCED INTO OUR FACTORY..."

"... AND I WAS *FIRED*..."

"I BEGAN TO *HATE* ROBOTS... AND TO WANT *REVENGE!*"

"AFTER THAT I NEARLY STARVED..."

"I ABANDONED MY PRIDE AND ACCEPTED THE MOST MENIAL JOBS..."

"I STRUGGLED HARD..."

"... BUT I KEPT STUDYING, TOO..."

I ALWAYS HAD *ONE GOAL*...

... AND THAT WAS TO *FIGHT ROBOTS!!*

CLAP CLAP CLAP

HELP!

SLAM

THE *ASTRO BALLOON'S* COMING!

WHAT?!

THE ASTRO BALLOON'S INSIDE THE BUILDING!

IT'S THAT TERRIBLE BALLOON AGAIN!

RUN FOR IT!

WATCH OUT, MR DAIFUKU! IT'S *DANGEROUS!* RUN FOR IT!

PLEASE DON'T BE AFRAID OF ME, SIR! I'M THE *REAL* ASTRO BOY!

THE *REAL* ASTRO BOY?

LET'S GO, MEN! THE BAL-LOON WENT INTO THIS BUILDING!

PLEASE, SIR! YOU'VE GOT TO HELP ME!

HMPH... OKAY, I WILL THEN...

THERE HE IS, MEN!

UH OH... THEY THINK I'M THE BALLOON 'N THEY'RE GONNA SHOOT ME!

OUT OF THE WAY, SIR! YOU'RE IN DANGER!

GENTLEMEN, THIS IS *NOT* THE BALLOON. THIS IS THE *REAL* ASTRO BOY!

NO! IT'S THE *BALLOON!* IT'S JUST *FOOLING* YOU!!

NO, IT *ISN'T!*

INSPECTOR TAWASHI! IT'S REALLY *ME, ASTRO!*

SEE? HE CLAIMS HE'S ASTRO, AND HE MUST BE RIGHT...

VERY WELL, LET'S SEE SOME PROOF!

YOU WANT PROOF? *I'LL* SHOW YOU SOME PROOF!

OPEN YOUR CHEST, ASTRO BOY!

BLAM

POW POW POW

WHEW...

AS YOU CAN SEE, GENTLE-MEN... HE WAS A MERE *ROBOT!*

PICK UP THE PIECES BEFORE YOU LEAVE...

GWA HA HA HA!

HE WASN'T KIDDING! IT *WASN'T* THE BALLOON BOMB...

BUT WHAT'D HE DO THAT FOR? HE DIDN'T HAVE TO *DESTROY* ASTRO!

GWA HA HA HA!

GOSH, THAT SURE FELT GOOD!

MY POOR *BABY!!*

LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE TO HIM, PROFESSOR! CAN YOU FIX HIM?

I DON'T KNOW, MUSTACHIO.. HE MAY'VE BEEN DAMAGED BEYOND REPAIR...

I WON'T STAND FOR THIS!!

WHO DID THIS TO ASTRO?! *WHO?!!*

UNFORTUNATELY, MUSTACHIO, IT WAS MR. *DAIFUKU*, A POLITICIAN RUNNING FOR GOVERNOR, WHO *DETESTS* ROBOTS...

AND YOU JUST STOOD BY AND IDLY WATCHED WHILE HE SHOT ASTRO, *EH?*

THIS DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE! WHAT'VE YOU GOT TO SAY FOR YOURSELF, TAWASHI?!

YOU OUGHTA BE ASHAMED OF MAN-HANDLING ME WITH YOUR FILTHY HANDS. YOU CAN PAY MY LAUNDRY BILL AND *GO TO BLAZES!*

F W P

CAN'T YOU REPAIR HIM, PROFESSOR?

I'D PROBABLY HAVE TO REBUILD A LOT OF PARTS AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...

...AND TO DO A GOOD JOB IT'D PROBABLY TAKE A *WHOLE YEAR!*

A YEAR?!! ASTRO IN REPAIR SHOP FOR *ONE YEAR?* YOU MUST BE *KIDDING?!* I CAN'T WAIT *THAT* LONG!

ASTRO BOY WAS THUS PUT INTO THE REPAIR SHOP AT THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE. BUT THE EVIL BALLOON BOMBS KEPT APPEARING IN THE SKIES OVER TOKYO AND FRIGHTENING THE CITIZENS...

I HARDLY KNOW WHERE TO START...

PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU...

WE CAME HERE TOGET-HER...

...WE'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK.

WE'RE BASICALLY THE SAME AS ASTRO, RIGHT?

WE TALKED IT OVER OURSELVES, AND DECIDED YOU CAN USE SOME OF *OUR PARTS*...

AH, WHAT LOVELY, AND DEVOTED SIBLINGS YOU ARE!!

IT'S OKAY, RIGHT COBALT?!

YEAH, WE'LL JUST BECOME PART OF *ASTRO*...

IF YOU'RE REALLY WILLING, LET'S DO IT! WE'LL USE SOME OF YOUR PARTS!

I WANNA GO FIRST!

NO, I WANNA BE FIRST!

ASTRO, YOU HAVE AN AWFULLY FINE BROTHER AND SISTER!

.....

WHAT THE--?!

YOU'VE COME BACK TO LIFE, ASTRO!

AM I REALLY CURED?!

WELL, HOW DO YOU FEEL?

I FEEL GREAT, PROFESSOR!

BUT IT'S WEIRD... SOMETIMES I FEEL KIND OF LIKE I'M *URAN!*

DON'T WORRY ABOUT THAT, ASTRO! I'VE GOT SOMETHING MORE IMPORTANT TO ASK YOU!

GO AHEAD, PROFESSOR...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY THINK AT THE POLICE STATION...

BUT I THINK THE EVIL BALLOON FLIES IN FROM THE *OCEAN*...

EVERYONE ELSE IS CONCENTRATING ON *LAND*, BUT I THINK THE BALLOON COMES IN ON A SEA BREEZE, VIA *TOKYO BAY!*

YOU THINK IT'S BEING LAUNCHED FROM A SHIP?

IT MAY WELL BE. SO I NEED YOU TO DO A THOROUGH *INVESTIGATION*, ASTRO...

HERE I GO!

I CAN STAY ON GUARD FOR DAYS, EVEN MONTHS IF I HAVE TO...

IT'S NIGHT TIME, AND PITCH DARK! THIS MIGHT BE THE TIME THE BALLOON HEADS THIS WAY...

GLUB GLUB GLUB

BUBBLE GLUB GLUB GLUB

SPLOSH

PHWAP

PHWOOOOSHHH

THAT'S IT! I'VE *FOUND* IT!

SOMEBODY MUST BE IN HERE!

HMPH... THIS PIPE LEADS TO LAND! SO THE BALLOON'S SENT FROM SOME PLACE ON LAND!

HOW 'BOUT THAT?! A *FACTORY* AT THE END OF THE *TUNNEL!*

THIS MUST BE WHERE THEY *MAKE* THE BOMBS!

HMM... THIS IS *HELIUM* FOR THE BALLOONS!

WHA?! WHO'RE YOU?!

HEH HEH HEH! WELCOME, ASTRO BOY!

WE MEET AGAIN!

I'M SURE YOU REMEMBER ME, *SKUNK KUSAI!*

WHY, YOU...! YOU'RE THE BOSS OF THE GANG THAT CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE IN TOKYO! BUT YOU WERE S'POSED TO BE IN *JAIL!*

QUITE RIGHT...

I'VE BEEN IN AND OUT OF JAIL MANY TIMES...

SO YOU'RE UP TO YOUR EVIL TRICKS AGAIN, EH, SKUNK?

AS YOU CAN SEE... BUT THIS TIME YOU'RE GETTING IN THE WAY! I'VE BEEN MEANING TO HAVE A *TALK* WITH YOU...

YOU'RE *EVIL*, SKUNK! AND I WON'T STAND FOR IT!

WOOSH

GUGI

YOW!

GUGI!

JACK!

TAKE *THIS!*

KABADASH

HUH?! WHERE'D THAT COWARD SKUNK GO?!

HEH HEH HEH... LET ME PROVIDE YOU WITH A BETTER SPARRING PARTNER!

PSSHH PSSHH PSSSSSH PSSH PSSSSSHH

VOOOSH

VOOOSH

YIKES! IT'S THE BALLOONS!

TAKE *THIS!*

BOM

NO BAL-LOONS ...

...ARE GONNA GET *ME!*

KAVOOOSH

BOM

POW

BA BAM BOM POW

SMASH

YOW!

KERTHUD

WHAT'S WITH THIS HOLE?!

ASSSST

ASSSST

I OUGHTA BE ABLE TO GET OUT OF HERE EASILY!

HEH HEH HEH HEH...

SPLOOSH SPLOOSH SPLOOSH

GAVOSH GAVOSH ROAR

UH OH! IT'S *LIQUID RUBBER!*

SEE YA LATER, ASTRO BOY! YOU'RE 60 FEET UNDERGROUND, CAPPED BY TONS OF *RAPIDLY HARDENING RUBBER!*

IT'S THE *PERFECT GRAVE* FOR *YOU*, ASTRO! *HEH HEH HEH!*

B.RRINNGGG

THAT YOU, BOSS? I'VE GOT ASTRO BOY HERE! RIGHT! I'VE GOT HIM STUCK UNDER TONS OF RUBBER!

WHAT? THE POLICE? AH, DON'T WORRY ABOUT THEM. THEY'LL *NEVER* FIGURE IT OUT...

WELL DONE, SKUNK, WELL DONE. I'LL EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE LATER!

BOSS... I HATE ASTRO BOY, AND YOU HATE ROBOTS...

BY WORKING TOGETHER, WE POLISHED OFF ASTRO BOY! *HEH HEH...*

I DO APPRECIATE IT, SKUNK, AND WHEN I'M ELECTED GOVERNOR, I'LL *DEFINITELY* PAY YOU!

NOW, WAIT A MINUTE, SIR...

YOU'LL BE GOVERNOR, AND I'LL STILL BE A WANTED MAN...

WE'RE NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT MONEY HERE...

YOU MEAN TEN MILLION YEN'S NOT *ENOUGH* FOR YOU?

THAT'S RIGHT... I NEED TEN MILLION *PER YEAR*...

B-BUT THAT'S *RIDICULOUS!!*

TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT, MR. DAIFUKU...

*OF COURSE, I COULD TALK **PUBLICLY** ABOUT THE PLOT YOU AND I PUT TOGETHER TO **DESTROY ASTRO BOY**...*

WAIT! DON'T DO THAT!!

I...I'LL DO ANYTHING YOU SAY...

HEH HEH HEH...

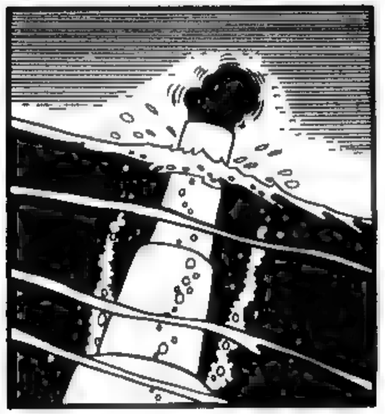
SLAM

HEH HEH HEH...

WELL, ASTRO... HOW'S IT FEEL TO TAKE A PERMANENT SLEEP IN A HOLE FILLED WITH RUBBER?! *HEH HEH...*

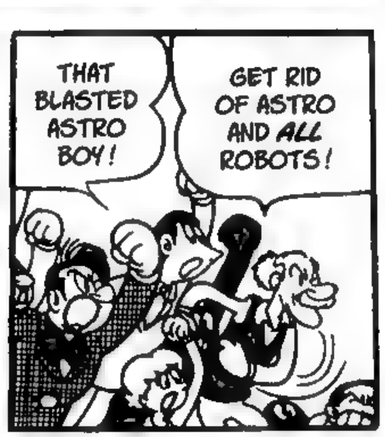
I WANT MORE OF THOSE BALLOONS LAUNCHED, MEN!

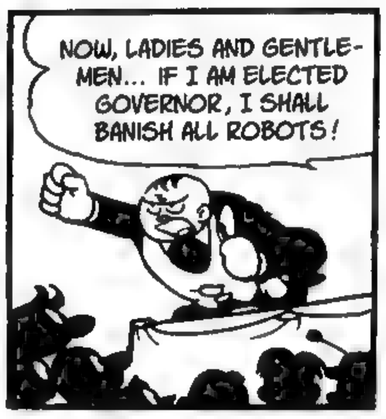
WE NEED 'EM TO TERRIFY *EVERY CITIZEN OF TOKYO*...



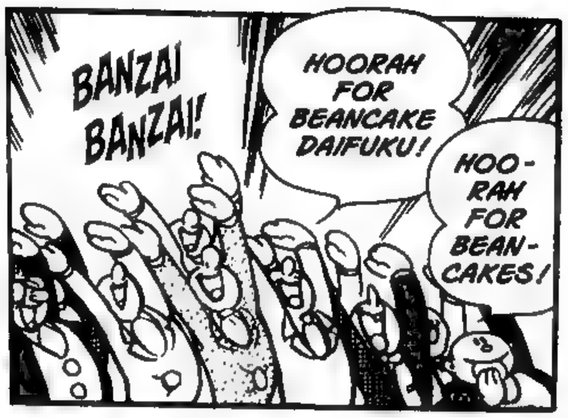
FWOOOSH!

AS THE NUMBER OF BALLOON BOMBS IN THE SHAPE OF ASTRO INCREASED IN THE SKY, THE CITIZENS OF TOKYO TREMBLED IN *FEAR*...


THAT BLASTED ASTRO BOY!
GET RID OF ASTRO AND *ALL* ROBOTS!


NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN... IF I AM ELECTED GOVERNOR, I SHALL BANISH ALL ROBOTS!

YAY
YAY
CLAP
CLAP
YAY
YAY
CLAP
CLAP


BANZAI BANZAI!
HOORAH FOR BEANCAKE DAIFUKU!
HOO-RAH FOR BEAN-CAKES!

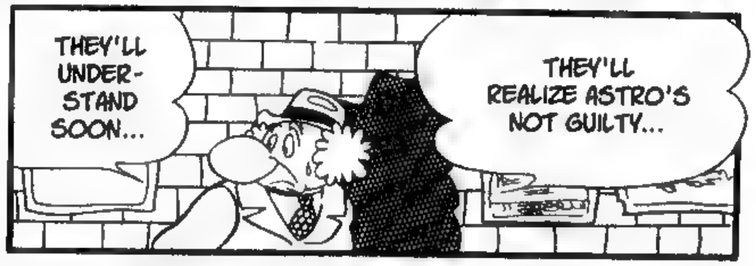
DAIFU-KU! WE LOVE DAIFU-KU!
DAIFUKU

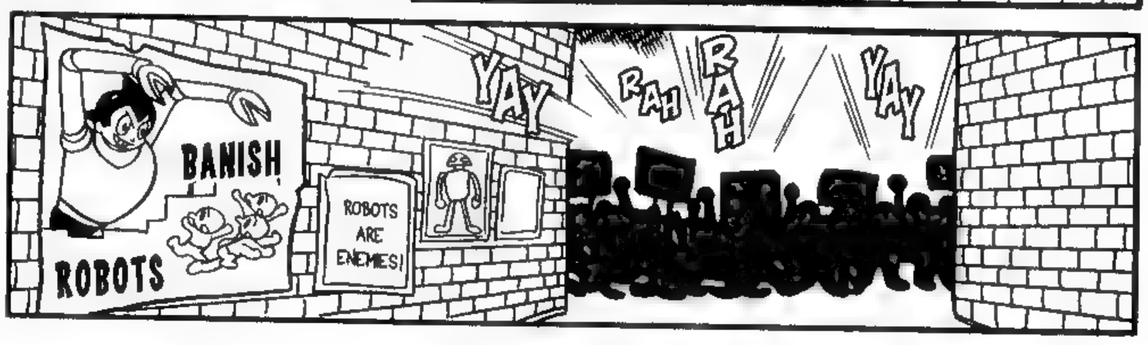
HOO-RAH HOO-RAH!

GOSH, I WONDER WHERE ASTRO IS...

YAY
YAY
YAY
POOR ASTRO ...

HOORAH
DAIFUKU
ASTRO IS AN ENEMY OF MANKIND
HOORAH
BANISH ROBOTS!
YAY RAH RAH


THEY'LL UNDER-STAND SOON...
THEY'LL REALIZE ASTRO'S NOT GUILTY...


BANISH ROBOTS
ROBOTS ARE ENEMIES!
YAY
RAH RAH
YAY

AND NOW FOR THE NEWS! FIRST, WE BRING YOU THE RESULTS OF THE ELECTION FOR GOVERNOR OF TOKYO. MR. BEANCAKE DAIFUKU HAS WON BY A LANDSLIDE!

DAIFUKU

HOORAH! BANZAI! BANZAI!

WE MUST DRIVE THE ROBOTS OUT OF THE CITY! AS LONG AS I'M ALIVE, THERE WON'T BE A ROBOT IN TOKYO!

MR. DAIFUKU!

AS THE HEAD OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE...

...I'M HERE TO GIVE YOU A PIECE OF MY MIND! YOU'D HAVE TO BE CRAZY TO BANISH ROBOTS FROM THE CITY!

EXCUSE ME, PROFESSOR OCHANOMIZU... BUT YOU'VE NO BUSINESS GETTING INVOLVED WITH THIS MATTER!

I'M THE GOVERNOR, NOW!!

AS THE ELECTED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PEOPLE, I WILL DO WHAT I WANT!

I'M GOING TO SMASH ALL ROBOTS LEFT IN THE CITY!

NO, MR. DAIFUKU! YOU CAN'T DO THAT, BEANCAKE DAIFUKU! IT'S NOT RIGHT, DAIFUKU! IT'S CRAZY, DAIFUKU!!

HEY! DON'T TOSS MY NAME ABOUT LIKE THAT...

RRRINGGG RRRINGGG

WHOOPS... HE REALLY IS FILLED WITH RED BEANCAKE PASTE!

UM... HELLO?

HEH HEH HEH... THIS THE GOVER-NOR?

HEH HEH HEH...

WAIT A MINUTE...

I'VE HEARD THAT LAUGH BEFORE SOMEWHERE!

CONGRATS, MR. DAIFUKU... I COULDN'T BE HAPPIER FOR YOU...

DON'T CALL ME NOW! I HAVE AN IMPORTANT VISITOR...

NOW, NOW... LET'S NOT GET TOO TOUCHY...

NOW THAT YOU'RE GOVERNOR, ME AND THE BOYS PLAN TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN...

Y-YOU *WHAT?!*

FIRST OF ALL, WE'RE GONNA ROB SOME *BANKS*...

GO EASY ON US AND PRETEND THAT NOTHING HAPPENED, *OKAY?* *HEH HEH HEH*...

WHAT?! NO! I NEVER AGREED TO THIS!

AGREED? AGREED SCHMEED! *HA! HA!* LISTEN, MR. GOVERNOR...

UNLESS YOU WANT ME TO EXPOSE OUR LITTLE DEAL, KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT, OKAY?!

NOW I REMEMBER...

THAT'S *SKUNK'S* VOICE! THE VOICE OF THE BOSS OF THE NEFARIOUS *SKUNK GANG!!*

MR. DAIFUKU! THAT WAS A CALL FROM *SKUNK*, WASN'T IT!!?

S-SKUNK? N... NEVER HEARD OF HIM...

NO! I *KNOW* IT WAS SKUNK!

BUT WHY WOULD HE CALL YOU, EH?

I'M GOING TO CONTACT THE POLICE, AND HAVE THEM *TRACE* THE CALL!

WAIT! STOP! DON'T DO THAT!

VROOM

LISTEN, SKUNK... OCHANOMIZU'S ON TO US!! CAN YOU TAKE CARE OF HIM FOR ME?

OKAY, I READ YOU...

TAKE CARE OF THE PROFESSOR, BOYS...

THERE HE IS!

UH OH! SOMEBODY'S FOLLOWING ME!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM...

VROOM

ROAR

YIKES! OF ALL THE LUCK! A BALLOON-BOMB'S COMING AFTER US!!

WATCH OUT!!

KA BOOM

...I'M SAFE!!

NOT SAFE...

SAFE!

WHAT WERE YOU GUYS AFTER ME FOR, EH?! YOU'RE SKUNK'S HENCHMEN, AREN'T YOU?!!

WHERE IS SKUNK?! WHAT'D HE DO TO ASTRO?! 'FESS UP!!

FINALLY, I'VE FIGURED OUT WHERE ASTRO IS! NOW I CAN CONTACT HIM WITH MY MICRO TRANSMITTER...

ASTRO... COME IN... THIS IS OCHANOMIZU...

THE BOSS... IS AT THE FACTORY, AT SEASIDE DRIVE, NUMBER 13... ASTRO'S THERE, TOO...

THE... PROFESSOR'S CALLING...

I HEAR YOU, PROFESSOR!

ASTRO! YOU OKAY? I'VE BEEN WORRIED!!

THEY GOT ME, PRO-FES-SOR...

I'VE BEEN SEALED IN RUBBER, AND I CAN'T MOVE...

CAN'T YOU MUSCLE YOUR WAY OUT OF THERE? YOU'VE GOT *100,000* HORSE-POWER, ASTRO!

IT DOESN'T WORK AGAINST THIS RUBBER, PROFESSOR...

LISTEN, ASTRO... WHEN I LAST REPAIRED YOU, I USED PARTS FROM YOUR BROTHER AND SISTER, FROM *COBALT* AND *URAN!!*

YOU *DID?!*

THEY BOTH WANTED TO DO ANYTHING TO HELP YOU, SO YOU'VE GOT TO DO EVERYTHING YOU CAN TO GET FREE NOW!

COBALT AND URAN SACRIFICED THEMSELVES FOR ME...

HERE GOES NOTHING...

FOMP

FORGIVE ME, COBALT 'N URAN!

DON'T WORRY, I'M GONNA DO MY BEST!

GET ME SKUNK, *NOW!!*

THE BOSS IS OFF ROBBING THE BANK OF JAPAN... HE LEFT WITH EVERYONE ELSE...

THE *BANK OF JAPAN?!*

WHEN DID HE LEAVE? AND HOW WAS HE GONNA ATTACK IT?

I DUNNO ANYTHING... I'M JUST HOLDING THE FORT HERE...

SMASH

VOOOSH

YIKES! THE SKY'S *FILLED* WITH ASTRO BALLOONS!

UH OH... THE BALLOONS ARE LANDING ON THE ROOF OF THE BANK OF JAPAN!

TIME TO GO TO *WORK!*

WHAT'S *WITH* THESE BALLOONS?

I GET IT! YOU GUYS SNUCK IN HERE IN BALLOONS, PRETENDING TO BE BALLOON BOMBS!

BUDA BUDA BUDA BUDA

VOOOSH

ARGH!

YIKES! IT'S ASTRO BOY!

TAKE *THIS*, YOU SCOUNDRELS!!

BONK BAM

YOU TAKE *THIS!*

WHIRRR

ZOOOM

BOING

KABOOM

WELL? ARE YOU STILL GONNA SAY, "HEH HEH HEH"? OR IS IT TIME TO CRY UNCLE?

UNCLE ...

MR. BEANCAKE DAIFUKU... YOU'RE UNDER ARREST FOR AIDING AND ABETTING A ROBBERY...

WHAT?!

STOP! NOT SO FAST!

MR. DAIFUKU! AS GOVERNOR YOU OUGHT TO BE ASHAMED OF YOURSELF... I KNOW YOU HATE ROBOTS!

I ALSO KNOW YOU'VE HAD DIFFICULTY WITH ROBOTS... BUT JUST THINK...

...YOU NEARLY WORKED YOURSELF TO DEATH TO BECOME GOVERNOR, RIGHT? AND PART OF THAT WAS BECAUSE OF THE ROBOTS, RIGHT? SO THEY WERE WHAT MOTIVATED YOU... THINK ABOUT IT!

MAYBE YOU UNDER-STAND NOW...

SQUEEZE

.....
.....
.....

WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH ALL THE BALLOONS, PROFESSOR?

DON'T WORRY! I'VE GOT A GREAT IDEA HOW TO USE THEM!

IF WE TAKE OUT THE BOMBS, WE CAN USE THEM TO DELIVER CANDY AND MEDICINE TO POOR PEOPLE IN NEED! THEY'LL MAKE GREAT DELIVERY BALLOONS!

THE END